

Commonwealth to monitor S. African polls

LIMASSOL (AP) — The Commonwealth said Sunday it will send up to 70 representatives to monitor South Africa's first multi-racial elections in April, marking the largest such operation in its history. They will also help in preparations for the ballot and in "policing duties" to try to stem political violence, Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku of Nigeria announced. Over a weekend break during a five-day summit, the Commonwealth leaders decided on what Mr. Anyaoku called "a significant role" in the April 27 elections. African National Congress leaders had pressed in the fringes of the summit for closer involvement both in the election and in training black South Africans for top jobs by Commonwealth, the association of Britain and 49 former colonies.



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Blast near Tel Aviv French embassy

TEL AVIV (AP) — An explosive device blew up on a Tel Aviv beach across the street from the French embassy on Sunday in an apparent attack, police said. There were no injuries or damages. The explosive device was buried in the sand and went off near a group of sun umbrellas and lounge chairs being used by British and Swedish tourists, Israel Radio said, noting that it was a miracle that no one was hurt. The beach, usually packed on Saturdays, was not crowded Sunday, the radio added. Police said they did not know when the device was buried. Army radio said the station received an anonymous call from the splinter anti-Arafat group Kahane Chai who said they planted the explosives to protest Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's visit to France.

UNHCR unable to confirm Iraqi attack

TEHRAN (AFP) — The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said Sunday it could not confirm reports of a chemical attack by the Iraqi army against Shiite Muslims in southern Iraq. A UNHCR official told AFP that the organization had not received any first-hand reports. "We normally hear or receive information about such incidents if they are true," he said. "But UNHCR will continue to search for news on the reports."

1 killed, 72 hurt in Egypt jail riot

CAIRO (AFP) — A fundamentalist was killed and 72 other militants and policemen were injured when security forces broke up a hostage-taking by Islamic militants at a prison here Sunday, police said. The trouble broke out when the militants tried to stop a search of their cells in the high security wing of Abu Zaabal prison in the northern suburbs of Cairo. They held several warders hostage in their cells before security forces moved in, killing one militant and wounding 56 others, police said. Sixteen policemen, including six officers, were wounded in the fighting. The militants had large quantities of sharp instruments to their calls, police said.

Quake shakes Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A strong quake measuring about 6.5 on the Richter scale struck this capital early Sunday morning, rattling buildings and alarming residents, but there were no reports of damage or injuries. Many residents left their apartment buildings and came out into the streets in their pajamas and nightgowns when the tremor struck at about 1:55 a.m. local time (7:55 GMT), but later went back inside. The quake lasted at least two minutes.

Ghali wants new Bosnia conference

CAIRO (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said Sunday he hopes to launch a new international conference on Bosnia like the one held in London in August 1992. Dr. Ghali told reporters as he left for London that such a meeting could provide "a new initiative to get the situation out of its present stagnation. The U.N. official said he will discuss the idea with British officials during meetings Monday and hopes to win the approval of concerned parties and the U.N. Security Council. Dr. Ghali was in Cairo following an African tour that included a visit to Somalia, which he described as a sign of support for U.N. peacekeeping forces in the troubled country. He said his contacts with African leaders were aimed at achieving reconciliation among warring Somali factions.

Israel delays release of detainees by one day

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI WILL start releasing 760 Palestinian prisoners on Monday under a deal struck with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Economic Minister Shimon Shetreet announced Sunday. The Palestinians will be freed in stages, starting with the sick, women, and those under 18 or older than 50. They must also "support peace and not have blood on their hands" which means they must have killed or wounded anyone, Mr. Shetreet said after the weekly cabinet meeting.

"It was decided on 760. The release will be gradual and is built on a number of categories. The categories are not automatic, there is a filtering system and a system of considerations," Mr. Shetreet told reporters following the cabinet meeting. He told reporters the release would begin on Monday and added that those to be freed were chosen for their support of the peace talks.

In Cairo Saturday, the PLO announced that Israel would free on Sunday 760 of the thousands of Palestinian prisoners it holds. But an army statement Sunday said that Israel's defence establishment was still making decisions on the release according to the criteria set during the peace talks in Tabat. During peace talks in Tabat last week, Israel agreed to begin releasing Palestinian prisoners starting this week. In the first stage, only those under 18 and above 50, women and sick prisoners will be released, according to the agreement. Ziad Abu Ziad, a Palestinian negotiator from Tabat, told Israel army radio that, who talks recovered this week, the issue of Palestinians held without trial would be raised.

"The next stage should in-

clude the administrative prisoners," Mr. Abu Ziad said. "Imagine that for years now 205 administrative prisoners have been sitting in jails that were not charged with anything." Under British mandate law, Israel has used administrative detention to jail Palestinians without trial for up to year. The detention can also be extended. Environment Minister Yossi Sarid told reporters after Sunday's cabinet meeting that "undoubtedly there will be another release but it is a matter for negotiations."

Most of the prisoners to be freed are held in detention centres in Meguido, in central Israel, and Ketriot, southern Israel, Israeli newspapers said. The total number of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel is estimated at 12,000 by the International Committee of the Red Cross, but only 9,500 according to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Israel and the PLO have said that the prisoner release was aimed at advancing the peace process and preventing violence.

Israel last week freed the longest serving Palestinian prisoner after 21 years in jail. The Palestinians wanted all prisoners covered by the categories to be up for release, regardless of their political affiliations. But Israel has insisted on exceptions, such as Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, head of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas). Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur told Israel Radio that the prisoner release "will not jeopardise security." The release has prompted strong criticism from the right-wing opposition Likud party, which is opposed to the autonomous deal.

During the cabinet meeting, relatives of three Israeli soldiers missing since the Jewish state's 1982 invasion of Lebanon held a sit-in opposite the prime minister's office, demanding that no prisoners be released until the fate of their loved ones was revealed.

Meanwhile a new grouping formed by two hardline Palestinian groups, the Organisation for the Defence of Freedom, called Sunday for justice for some 200 to 300 non-Palestinian Arabs languishing in Israeli jails.

These prisoners, who came from Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt, fought hand-to-hand with the Palestinian people for their cause... and now they are forgotten by everyone, even the Palestinian delegation (negotiating with Israel)," said Ali Jdeh, a supporter of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine who himself spent 17 years in Israeli jails.

Mr. Jdeh was speaking at a press conference in Arab East Jerusalem, which was also attended by dozens of Arab women carrying pictures of their detained loved ones.

PLO officials said Israel wanted to free Palestinian prisoners after the withdrawal of its troops from the West Bank town of Jericho and Gaza and the handover to Palestinian police next year but the PLO did not want to wait that long.

"We are trying our best to secure the release of the biggest possible number but the Israelis are objecting and saying 'when the Palestinian force is established then we will release everybody,'" said PLO official in Cairo.

Palestinian delegates said the PLO team spent hours trying to persuade Israel to release Sheikh Yassin under instructions from PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, but the Israelis rejected the idea out of hand.

Hamas claims killing 2 Israelis; Rabin says PLO keeping word

AMMAN (Agencies) — Muslim fundamentalists opposed to Arab-Israeli peace talks announced Sunday they kidnapped and killed two Israeli soldiers in the occupied Gaza Strip.

In a statement telefaxed to the Associated Press in Amman, Hamas said its military branch, Izzeddine Al Qassem Brigades, was responsible for "the kidnapping and the killing of two Israeli soldiers in a heroic operation."

Ibrahim Ghosheh, a Jordan-based spokesman for Hamas, confirmed the killing report. He said he did not have detailed information.

Israeli sources said unknown assailants killed two Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip Sunday. The two reservists were kidnapped and were picked up by Palestinians disguised as religious Jews, wearing kippas on their heads, in a stolen Israeli van near the settlement of Pear Sadeh, the sources said.

When they got on board, the Palestinians shot the two soldiers dead at point blank range, abandoning the vehicle and dumping their bodies by the roadside after dragging them along the ground for some 700 metres.

The one-page Hamas statement said the attack was launched early Sunday near the town of Khan Yunis. It said M-16 rifles were taken from the soldiers as well as one of the soldier's identification card and his checkbook.

The Arabic-language statement, telefaxed from the occupied territories, was typed on a paper bearing the group's letterhead. It also included an illegible copy of the officer's ID card and notebook at the bottom of the page.

Addressing Israeli Prime

Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the statement said: "Rabio ... should know that the process of settling scores will continue until doomsday."

"We have promised you that Al Qassem Brigades' fire will target the skulls of the Jews and we have vowed that we will respond to the plot which Rabin and his dogs are trying to pass to humiliate our people," the statement said, addressing Palestinians.

It was referring to the peace accord signed by the PLO and Israel Sept. 13.

Mr. Rabin said Sunday the PLO has stuck to its word and not committed a single attack on Israelis since it signed the autonomy accord.

"Since Sept. 13, violence in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank has dropped by 50 per cent. The PLO has stuck to its side of the declaration of principles," the premier said.

"It has not committed a single terrorist act in Israel or the occupied territories," he told journalists during a walkabout here.

But he said hardline Palestinian groups who opposed the accord has launched an all-out campaign to scupper peace.

"Hamas, the Islamic Jihad and the rejectionist front are doing all they can to increase terrorism. We are going to carry on fighting those who oppose to peace on both sides (Israelis and Palestinians) and implement the declaration of principles with those who support it," Mr. Rabin said.

"The situation is extremely delicate because there is still no peace, there is only an agreement which constitutes a significant step on the road to peace, but which is nonetheless still only a step."

"Organisations opposed to peace will continue to try to

sabotage the accord and will hit at Jews and Israelis in the hope of provoking a hostile reaction in the heart of the Israeli population," he said.

Shooting between supporters and opponents of the Israel-PLO peace plan in the Gaza Strip left a woman bystander dead Sunday, and the Fateh faction called an alert to prevent assassinations after a third prominent activist was killed last week.

It was the second shoot out in Rafah refugee camp in as many days between members of the mainstream PLO Fateh faction, known as the Hawks, and the Eagles of the Popular Front of the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

Mariam Jouada, 23, from Rafah, was shot in the head outside her house while watching the clash.

The woman, scheduled to be married in two days, was pronounced dead at Nasr hospital in nearby Khan Yunis, Arab reporters said.

They said 15 others were wounded in scuffles between the two sides.

Palestinian sources said that Fateh was putting its adherents on high alert following the killing Thursday of Assad Sattawi, a 58-year-old founder of the movement.

Possible targets will be assigned body guards and 3,000 of its adherents will be organised into security patrols within 48 hours, said the sources.

The killings of three Fateh activists have been blamed on an internal fight between younger members who organised the hit and who do not want to be supplanted by an older generation involved in the negotiations with Israel on assuming control of the area.

Islamists insist they are victimised by government in election campaign

By Suhair Obeidat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) Sunday accused the government of stepping up what it described as a campaign aimed at tightening the front's manoeuvrability and diluting its support in the run-up to the Nov. 8 elections.

Security forces had surrounded and entered the IAF headquarters in Shmeisani and prevented journalists from covering a press conference Sunday until the front solved the issue with government officials, Dr. Ishak Farhan, the IAF secretary general, said.

The press conference was called for so that the media would meet with the 37 IAF members employed at the Ministry of Education who were transferred from their positions to various government departments for their alleged involvement in the election campaigns of the front, according to a front statement.

The Election Law bans civil servants from campaigning for any candidate while the political parties law allows them to join political parties.

Dr. Farhan said the press

conference — minus the transferred civil servants — that the IAF differs with the government's interpretation of the law that civil servants' political activity should be restricted to casting their votes.

"I had to call a number of government officials and only when we promised that the transferred employees would not attend was the front allowed to go ahead with holding the press conference," Dr. Farhan told reporters.

"These arbitrary actions reflect the seriousness with which the government deals with the constitution, laws and regulations," Dr. Farhan read from a prepared statement.

"(They) constitute an infringement on the rights of citizens and parties, a serious threat to the democratic process and a strong indication that the government is not ensuring the integrity of the elections," he added.

He said the IAF would take the "necessary democratic measures" to face the alleged attempts to pressure its members, candidates and supporters. These measures will include reconsidering the front's participation in the elections, he said.

Dr. Farhan said the press

The government had earlier rejected similar charges made by the front insisting that it was acting within the law.

Dr. Farhan said that no reason was given for the security forces' actions, which, he asserted, violated the political parties law.

He said police did not follow the legal procedures which require a search warrant before entering the building.

Dr. Farhan dismissed a suggestion that a deal was struck with the government. "We did not succumb to pressure either. We just realise that the democratisation process has not fully matured yet."

Dr. Farhan claimed that the security forces were summoning IAF supporters among civil servants and asking them not to participate in the election campaign.

Dr. Farhan said the IAF had called an emergency meeting of the executive office in order to decide whether the front should call the shura (consultative) council into session to formulate the front's response to the recent events.

Dr. Farhan said it was still early to say whether the front will withdraw from the elec-

tions. "We have the right, as citizens and as the largest party, to participate in the political process and we have guarantees from His Majesty King Hussein that the elections will be free and honest."

Dr. Farhan, however, denied that the front had given the government an ultimatum to "stop these acts."

He said the transferred employees would sue the government on an individual basis and the front was debating whether to sue the government for banning it from holding public rallies. "This is illegal. We differ with the government and the prime minister in specific on these issues," he said.

Dr. Farhan said that the level of coordination between the IAF, which is the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, and other parties, was not satisfactory. He said, however, that the parties were in agreement that the government was practising "electoral irregularities."

"We face the same bur-

Dr. Farhan said that he had requested an audience with King Hussein to discuss the party's reservations about the government's actions.

Electoral changes seen to have produced lacklustre campaigning

By Aymon Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The introduction of the one-person, one-vote formula into the electoral process, the failure of parliamentary aspirants to present a well-defined political agenda and government limitations on campaigning have rendered the race for the 1993 election both lacklustre and devoid of any serious debate of the major issues facing the country, politicians and analysts say.

"Compared to the 1989 election campaign, this campaign is dead," said Mustafa Hamarneh, director of the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan.

Politicians and analysts agree that parliamentary candidates have failed to give any momentum to the campaign, despite expectations that dramatic developments to the peace process and other economic and political issues would transform the 1993 race into heated debate on the country's domestic and foreign policy.

Clearly absent from the electoral campaign are issues as weighty as the Palestinian-Israeli self-rule deal, Jordan's agreement on an agenda for peace negotiations with Israel, the economic adjustment programme and the democratisation process, observers say.

Replacing the bloc-voting system with the one-person, one-vote formula has played a negative role that led to limiting the scope of campaigning to issues of direct concern to the districts in which candidates are running, said Dr. Hamarneh.

Under the bloc-voting system, which was changed in August despite strong opposition from many political parties in the country, voters had as many votes as the number of parliamentary seats allocated for their constituencies and that sent candidates vying for the second and third ballot of voters, a seasoned political analyst said.

The one-person, one-vote system has limited the constituency of candidates to their immediate locality, significantly reducing the undecided votes outside the im-



Banners are plenty in town but substance is missing from most (Photo by Aynsley Floyd)

mediate districts for which candidates can compete.

Under the new electoral rules, "basically, the audience is so limited," said the analyst, who did not want to be identified by name.

"It is now very difficult to go out and get votes from (other constituencies)," said Dr. Hamarneh.

And since most of the candidates are running as representatives of tribes and small localities where personal relations prevail, candidates are almost assured of the votes of their supporters.

Candidates did not therefore need to launch large campaigns and their focus is restricted to issues of direct significance to the constituency of candidates, said the analyst. "National issues are not given a chance."

The analyst, who has campaigned against changing the Election Law, said that by

cancelling the possibility of forming alliances among candidates, "the one-person, one-vote formula has killed the system of promoting platforms."

The uncertainty about holding the elections on their scheduled time after the signing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel accord on Sept. 13 has dampened the enthusiasm for the elections, observers say.

They say that the election campaign has also been limited by the failure of the government to take the lead in enriching the democratic practice and debate.

"Neither the government nor the candidates have offered a political agenda that could heat the elections debate," said the analyst.

In the 1989 elections, he said, the government turned into the elections debate the democratisation process, its

own programme of administrative reform and the problem of unemployment. That contributed to a lively campaign, he said.

This year the government is doing all it can to limit the scope and the flavour of the campaign, says Ishak Al Farhan, secretary-general of the Islamic Action Front (IAF).

"I believe the government is resorting to all measures to prevent candidates from contacting the people," Dr. Farhan said. "How can you have a campaign without ability to contact people?"

The Ministry of Interior has banned all candidates from holding public rallies on state-owned sites, a measure that was not adopted in the 1989 elections.

Observers believe public rallies are the major venue through which candidates can promote their platforms in the absence of other effective outlets such as television.

The National Charter, which was adopted as a binding document in 1991, bans state media from promoting any political group or airing political commercials.

Practical reasons do not allow the state-run Television and Radio to present debates among parliamentary candidates, said director general to Jordan Radio and Television Radhi Alkhas.

Mr. Alkhas said the large number of candidates makes it impossible for the television to give equal time to all parliamentary aspirants, something that its role as a neutral national organisation would require if it was to broadcast debates among candidates.

Dr. Farhan and Dr. Hamarneh both agree that in the absence of effective communication channels the debate is taking place mostly in homes and private meetings.

"But how many homes can a candidate visit and how many meetings can he hold? You cannot have a lively campaign under such circumstances," said Dr.

(Continued on page 10)

Chadian leader accused of killing opposition leader

NDJAMENA (Agencies) — Chad has insisted that opposition leader Abbas Kouti was killed while resisting arrest for plotting a coup, prompting a denial from Mr. Kouti's supporters, who said he was executed for political reasons.

Foreign Minister Agmed Korom said Mr. Kouti, a former defence minister and ex-army chief-of-staff, died of his injuries after resisting arrest Friday night.

Mr. Korom said security forces had found a document signed by Mr. Kouti which said the coup would begin at dawn Sunday. The paper, a copy of which was obtained by AFP, was entitled "plan for coup d'etat scheduled for October 24, 1993."

But Mr. Kouti's Chadian national recovery committee (CNR) denied Mr. Kouti had the means or the intention to organise a coup, charging that government forces had executed him because he was a political threat to president Idriss Deby.

Bichar Idriss Aggar, CNR spokesman in Libya, told Radio France International in Paris: "It was planned in advance. Everything indicates that it was a real, well-planned execution."

"I think the authorities... realised that Abbas' popularity was such that he had become a dangerous political adversary for Deby. That is why they mounted the plan to eliminate him," he said.

In Ndjamena, Mr. Korom said the alleged coup document called for initial attacks on the presidency, on the republican guard (in charge of

the president's security) and on the martyrs camp barracks in the centre of the capital.

Other coup plotters meanwhile would seize control of Chadian radio installations and Chagoua bridge at the road leading out of the city, in the south.

If the coup failed, the document went on, the rebels would flee by the northern road out of Ndjamena in the direction of Lake Chad, and then meet up "within 48 hours" in the central town of Mongo.

But Mr. Aggar said Mr. Kouti could not possibly have organised a coup, as his supporters are in Libya, from where he returned two months ago after signing an agreement with envoys sent by Chad's President Idriss Deby.

"It is impossible because he left with two bodyguards and one member of staff. You can't mount a coup when your army is nearly 1,200 kilometres from the capital," he said.

"Of one thing we are certain: That Abbas Kouti never tried to mount a coup d'etat," Mr. Aggar said from Tripoli.

Under a transition to democracy, set in train at the beginning of the year following 15 years of civil war, a multi-party system is due to be set up during 1994. Mr. Deby, who is to remain as head of state, has been seeking unity deals with several factions.

A former military ally of Mr. Deby, who himself ousted Chad's former strongman Hisssein Habre in December 1990 after a rebel campaign, Mr. Kouti was Mr. Deby's chief-of-staff until June 1992.

Guerrillas attack Israeli outpost; 2 attackers killed

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Resistance fighters attacked Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon Sunday with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic rifles.

Security sources said two attackers were killed and three Israeli soldiers inside an armoured personnel carrier (APC) were wounded.

Hours later, the sources said six Katyusha rockets crashed near villages close to Marjayoun, which is the headquarters of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia.

No one took responsibility for the Katyusha attacks, but the rockets were fired from the Iqlim Al Toufah province, the major South Lebanon stronghold of Hizbollah.

The Israeli army said in a statement that two guerrillas were killed in the clash earlier and one Israeli soldier was "seriously injured." It made no mention of any other Israeli casualties.

The violence heightened tension on the only active Arab-Israeli war front as the United States strove to keep the Middle East peace talks between Arab countries and Israel alive.

The flareup came two days after U.S. State Department envoy Dennis Ross wound up a Middle East swing designed to promote a 12th round of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Shi'ite Muslim guerrillas blasted the posts of Sojod and Ghizlan in the "security zone's" eastern sector with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic rifles.

They said the Israeli soldiers were wounded when one of the

rockets hit their APC in Sojod, which is north of Marjayoun.

The sources said Israeli and SLA guerrillas retaliated with a massive artillery barrage on the Iqlim Al Toufah province.

Israeli helicopter gunships also flew repeated strafing runs over the pine-wooded province, where several forest fires erupted, the source said.

The Islamic Resistance, the military wing of Hizbollah, said its guerrillas destroyed an Israeli APC, a truck and a bulldozer near the Sojod-Ghizlan area, "inflicting many enemy casualties."

A statement issued by the group identified the two dead guerrillas as Mahmoud Ahmad, 18, and Wissam Bashir, 16.

The sources said the shelling was the heaviest in the region since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed a peace accord Sept. 13, giving Palestinians limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

On Saturday, three militiamen of the SLA were wounded when guerrillas attacked an SLA outpost near the zone, provoking Howitzer and mortar duels.

Hostilities flare almost daily in the volatile region to protest the Israel-PLO accord, which is bitterly opposed by Iran and its main Lebanese ally, Hizbollah, as well as 10 Palestinian groups allied with Syria.

Hizbollah and the Palestinian alliance have vowed to escalate anti-Israeli attacks from South Lebanon in a bid to wreck the PLO-Israel accord and the whole Middle East process.

3 French diplomatic workers kidnapped in Algeria

ALGIERS (AP) — Gunmen killed a police guard and abducted three French diplomatic employees Sunday, officials said, and suspicion fell on Muslim fundamentalist militants who have begun targeting foreigners.

The two men and a woman were seized as they left for work from their residence in central Algiers, witnesses said. One of the Algerian policemen guarding their building was killed in a shootout, and a fourth French worker escaped from the armed band before it fled.

Seven foreigners, including two Frenchmen, have been killed in a month by armed gangs believed to be fundamentalists in a 21-month-old insurgency against the government.

"France condemns this abhorrent act and demands their release," the French foreign ministry in Paris said in a communique announcing the new abductions. The three worked in the French consulate's visa section.

The statement said France "expects that Algerian authorities will put all their efforts in obtaining their release."

As in the previous abductions, there was no claim of responsibility. But earlier this month, a German executive with Mercedes said he and his family were held at gunpoint for nine hours by a group that issued a warning to the entire foreign community.

The Algerian government has been unable to stamp out the fundamentalist insurgency despite curfews and sweeps. More than 2,000 people have died since the government cancelled elections in January 1992 that the fundamentalists were expected to win on voter discontent with corruption and mismanagement.

The newest phase of the insurgency attacks on foreigners could be a devastating blow to a government that has been seeking political and economic support from abroad. France had asked the Algerian government to step up security for its official personnel.

The foreign community includes numerous technical experts working with Algeria's oil and gas industry, the main source of foreign exchange for a nation in economic disarray.

On Thursday, three foreign technicians working on an oil pipeline — a Peruvian, a Colombian and a Filipino — were found dead after they were abducted. In the first fatal incident involving foreigners, two kidnapped French surveyors were found dead Sept. 21.

On Saturday, the Algerian Human Rights League issued a communique calling for "an end to the attacks, sabotages, murders and government executions" in order to "return to democratic life." It denounced violence "wherever it comes from."

Violence since Thursday has left two policemen, an army officer and 10 militiamen dead.

Seeking a political solution, the Algerian army appeared to extend an olive branch Sunday. It called on "all patriotic forces," whatever their political leanings, to enter a dialogue "to find before the end of the year" a solution to the crisis.

The solution, Defence Minister Lamine Zeroulou said in a statement, should respect "Islam, in a word, a country of law and progress which can involve all Algerians."

Less than a block away, a dozen gunmen ambushed two Associated Press vehicles leaving the compound on Saturday.



Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz (left) listens to Iraqi Ambassador Noori Al Weiss while attending a 40th day memorial for Jordanian poet Abdul Rahim Omar in Amman Saturday (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Aziz heads for home after stopover

AMMAN (AP) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz left Amman Sunday after a two-day stopover on his way home from Paris, where he underwent medical treatment.

Two Jordan-based Western diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Aziz, 57, suffered from a "heart ailment." They said they did not have detailed information.

The two said Mr. Aziz, Iraq's diplomatic anchorman during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, was given extensive tests at a medical centre near Ervay, outside Paris.

French officials have said the government, which does not have diplomatic relations with Iraq, issued a visa to Mr. Aziz on "humanitarian" grounds and that he had no official meetings in the French capital.

His presence in Amman was not known until he surfaced Saturday at a 40th day memorial for a Jordanian poet, Abdul Rahim Omar, who was known for his staunch pro-Iraqi stands.

Reporters were not allowed to approach Mr. Aziz at the service, which was also attended by Jordanian officials, lawmakers and other renowned Jordanian personalities.

Iraqi diplomats said Mr. Aziz, a close confidant of President Saddam Hussein, arrived here Friday and checked out of his hotel early Sunday.

"He is on his way home," said one Iraqi diplomat, who refused to be identified. He also declined to say if Mr. Aziz was travelling by road to Baghdad, 885 kilometre to the northeast, or by being helicopter half-way, to the border, and then travelling to Baghdad by road.

Jordan is the only land route for official travel in and out of Iraq, which is under international sanctions, including an air embargo, imposed after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

European diplomats in Amman had said they were carefully watching for signs whether Mr. Aziz was meeting representatives of French oil companies which are known to be seeking exploration and production concessions in Iraq. It was not clear whether he did such secret meetings.

The international sanctions ban Iraq from exports of any kind.

Ali Mahdi said his people have given up their heavy arms and that all other factions should lay down their weapons, too.

"Aideed has almost all of his heavy weapons," Mr. Ali Mahdi said.

Unlike Gen. Aideed, he praised most of the United Nation's work in Somalia.

Members of one clan who live in both halves of the city are supposed to meet at a stadium on the south side Monday. That means crossing the green line en masse. Gen. Aideed's faction already has warned them not to come.

U.N. officials worry that the clan's peace demonstration could be a flashpoint in a city where peacekeeping troops no longer make regular patrols much beyond the immediate boundaries of their fortified compounds.

North Mogadishu lies on the other side of the wasteland straddling the green line. Much of it was the central business district before civil war turned it into a battlefield.

As the rubble recedes into less-damaged buildings, signs of commerce appear. The streets are relatively quiet. The firefights between U.N. troops and Gen. Aideed's militia all have been on the other side of the city.

Mr. Ali Mahdi looks prosperous in his whitewashed compound with a view of the Indian Ocean. His desk is a rich wood, and the chairs are leather. Nearly empty bookshelves line most of one wall. Security is tight. There are two checkpoints outside, and the door inside is always locked.

Less than a block away, a dozen gunmen ambushed two Associated Press vehicles leaving the compound on Saturday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran denies it plans to test-fire missile

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran on Saturday denied a Saudi Arabian newspaper report that it was planning to test-fire a medium-range missile that would be capable of hitting Israel, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The agency, monitored in Cyprus, quoted an unidentified Foreign Ministry source as saying the report in the daily Al Sharq Al Awsat was a "mere lie." The Saudi Arabian-owned newspaper reported Friday that Iran and North Korea would test the medium-range missile, identified as the No-Dong 2, in southeastern Iran later this month. There was no way to verify the Al Sharq Al Awsat report, which quoted unnamed sources in Tehran. But informed Western sources earlier told the Associated Press that North Korea test-fired the missile for the first time over the Sea of Japan last June. Such capability would double Iran's missile reach, bringing Israel into range for the first time and extending Tehran's reach into Iraq, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states. Al Sharq Al Awsat said that a North Korean military delegation is now in Iran preparing for the new No-Dong 2 test in the eastern Lut desert.

Germany denies ties with Iran secret service

BONN (AFP) — A top aide to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Saturday denied press reports that the German secret services were in close collaboration with Iranian counterparts. Bernd Schmidbauer told a news conference that allegations in Der Spiegel weekly news magazine and other papers were untrue. Der Spiegel on Saturday leaked an extract from its Monday edition saying that Mr. Schmidbauer, the coordinator of the German secret services, had struck "very firm deals" with Iranian intelligence Minister Ali Fallahian when they met earlier this month. An intelligence source told Der Spiegel that Mr. Schmidbauer's claim that the talks had focused on humanitarian issues was "simply a lie." The magazine said German intelligence delivered a computer to Tehran in 1991. German experts spent two months teaching the Iranians organisational techniques, it said.

Israel plays down report of Iraqi 'overtures'

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Israel had no plans to negotiate with Iraq, despite an Israeli news report suggesting Baghdad had sought direct contacts. Speaking in Raanana near Tel Aviv late on Saturday, Mr. Peres recalled that the Iraqi army fired dozens of Scud missiles at the Jewish state during the 1991 Gulf war. "It's not among our plans to conduct negotiations with Iraq. We know who stands at its head. We also remember that he launched missiles at Israel, and I doubt Iraq will be an Iraq of peace and hope so long as Saddam Hussein heads it," he said. Israel's biggest newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth said on Friday that Iraq had put out feelers for direct contacts with Israel and apparently initial meetings were held. "Neither the Iraqis nor the Iraqi state is an enemy of Israel but the present Iraqi regime is certainly a hostile, irresponsible regime and it presents a very big problem to the whole region and to Israel," Mr. Peres said.

Yemen says 23 Western tourists safe

SANAA (AP) — Twenty-three Western tourists held for two days by a tribe in the remote desert regions of Marib were released Saturday, the Interior Ministry announced. The tourists — 18 Germans, four Austrians and an Italian — were not harmed, and were released with the four vehicles in which they had been travelling when seized Thursday, the statement said. According to the statement, the tribal kidnappers released their hostages when security forces surrounded them. This mountainous tribal Red Sea country is rife with lawlessness.

WHERE COMES IN STYLE

NEWS STORES
3rd Circle - Tala Centre
Prince Mohammed street
Tel : 642747

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Les Aventuriers de L'Espace
18:00 Omnes
18:30 Maguy
19:00 News in French
19:15 The weekly sport magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Delta
21:10 The House of Eliott
22:00 News in English
22:30 The Chancer

PRAYER TIMES

04:24 Fajr
05:42 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:20 Dhuhr
12:20 'Asr
16:58 Maghreb
18:15 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632705
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623266
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 625443
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775361
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 644195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Moderate weather conditions will prevail with clouds appearing at different altitudes, and winds will be south-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 17 / 29
Aqaba 22 / 33
Dead Sea 13 / 21
Jordan Valley 21 / 34

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28.6, Aqaba 33 Humidity readings: Amman 27 per cent, Aqaba 43 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mahmoud Haidi 898787
Dr. Raul Zaitoun 888685
Dr. Mohammad Al Abbadi 789599
Dr. Nidal Al Dahik 827195
Firas pharmacy 778336
Perdows pharmacy 637055
Narous pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmouni pharmacy 637660
Narous pharmacy 623672
Najih pharmacy 847632

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue Civil Defence Emergency 199
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 669131
Amman Municipality 897467
Complaints 645545
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Al-Khaleel Maternity, J. Amn. 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmouni 664171/4
Shmouni Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645545
Al-Mustashir Hospital 647221/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, AF-Muhajreen 777101/3
AP-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marika 891611/15
Queen Aila Hospital 602245/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Dr. Ahmad Al Tarifi 900806
Khalid pharmacy 985417

19:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

16:15 Khartoum (SD)
17:30 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
17:30 Istanbul (TK)
19:35 Amsterdam (KL)
20:45 Cairo (MS)
20:45 Vienna (OS)
20:45 Dubai (EM)
21:45 Dubai (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Beirut (RJ)
11:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:15 London (RJ)
12:25 Frankfurt (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
20:40 Doha (RJ)
20:45 Dubai, Karachi (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:45 Damascus (RJ)
21:30 Abu Dhabi Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:15 Beirut (ME)
08:15 Khartoum (SD)
13:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
16:35 Istanbul (TA)
18:30 New Delhi (RJ)
20:25 Cairo (MS)
21:45 Dubai (EM)
22:35 Amsterdam (KL)

HIAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday

Dep. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Monday

Dep. Amman 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 850/300
Banana (Malakana) 600
Beans 600 / 400
Cabbage 140 / 80
Carrot 340/250
Cauliflower 280 / 200
Cucumber 250 / 200
Cucumbers (large) 130 / 90
Cucumbers (small) 280 / 200
Eggplant 250 / 200
Garlic 900 / 600
Grape 550/350
Grape Fruit 200/150
Guava 380 / 280
Lemon 180 / 120
Marrow (large) 120 / 80
Marrow (small) 250 / 200
Mushroom 300 / 200
Olives (green) 500/300
Onion (dry) 240 / 180
Pepper (hot) 240 / 180
Pepper (sweet) 200 / 160
Potato 400 / 300
Tomato 150 / 60
Spinach 300 / 200



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday awards young participants in the Children's Creative Production Competition (Petra photo)

Queen awards young participants in creative protection competition

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday distributed awards to participants in the Children's Creative Production Competition Sunday in a ceremony also celebrating Arab Child Day.

The competition is organised by Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation, in cooperation with Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). With the support and encouragement of the Queen, the idea for the competition was introduced in 1988 as an incentive for children aged 4-15 to express themselves freely and creatively.

The competition aims to discover and develop the talents, capabilities and interests of children in the areas of creative writing and the arts. It is also a means of enhancing the children's Arabic language skills and developing their national sense of belonging.

Participating in this year's

event were 881 competitors from various schools in the Kingdom. Among the participants were 269 competitors in the field of writing, which included national songs, poetry, short stories, as well as researched articles and reports.

In addition, 661 children competed in drawing and handicrafts production. Works of the participants centred mainly around themes such as "Towards a Green Jordan," "Love for the Country," "Respect for Parents," "Cooperation for Success," and "The Library: A Place for Science and Knowledge."

The winning pieces were chosen on an anonymous basis by a special evaluating committee.

Her Royal Highness Princess Iman participated in the competition and was a first-prize winner in the drawing category for children aged 9-11. Princess Iman's drawing depicted colourful images of a big family.

In her welcoming remarks and representing the winning children, the Princess thanked the sponsors for allowing children such an opportunity to express their thoughts and to share their artistic talents.

"I hope we will have more of such opportunities to develop our personal abilities... and to discover our talents in the earlier stages of childhood," she said.

Following a musical performance by the National Conservatory Band, the Queen distributed honorary certificates to 66 winners, as well as certificates of encouragement to 85 other participants. Six of the winning pieces were sent to the International Exhibition of Japan.

Receiving Queen Noor upon arrival were Mr. Abdul Majed Shoman, Mr. and Mrs. Khaled Shoman, and Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation Director Dr. As'ad Abdul Rahman.

ESCWA, UNDP hold U.N. Day celebrations

AMMAN (J.T.) — On the occasion of United Nations Day Sunday celebrations were held at the offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

In an address at UNDP by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, delivered on his behalf by Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Al Anani, Prince Hassan said: "Today is an occasion for celebration for we can justly celebrate the increasing importance of the United Nations role in the new world order based on its advocacy of the triple pillars of peace and security, democratisation and human rights."

The Crown Prince said: "The work of the U.N. has not been confined to questions of world peace and international security but a forum for dealing with issues of ecology, national disasters, human rights and the settlement of regional disputes." He congratulated the work of the

U.N. in Jordan through its agencies, particularly UNESCO (the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) for its continuous concern for Jerusalem and its Arab and Islamic heritage.

Stressing that the protection of the dignity and integrity of the average human being is the U.N.'s main task, Prince Hassan also said that "the peoples of this region from bitter experience are very cautious, they do not choose to be over optimistic, as the restrictive certainties of bi-polar confrontation have vanished and we still do not know by what they will be replaced."

He said Jordan supports Secretary General Bontros Ghali's work to revitalise the world body and prepare it to face the challenges of a new era.

In applauding Dr. Ghali's efforts to determine the criteria for U.N. intervention, "whether in Haiti, Iraq, Somalia, Bosnia or anywhere else," Prince Hassan said that while maintaining worldwide respect for international law, it is cru-



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday addresses the staff of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on U.N. Day (Petra photo)

cial that there is "no undermining of the autonomy and sovereignty of member states."

In conclusion, the Crown Prince said: "We believe that the U.N. is a potent symbol and should be made an effective instrument for this notion of 'all for each other.' In this region of the world we believe such an outlook on international relations to be of particular importance."

Celebrations at ESCWA

"We appreciate the cooperation and support the organiza-

tions of the United Nations have shown the public and private sectors in Jordan and their continuous cooperation with development in Jordan," said Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, U.N. Honorary Ambassador for Human Development.

Princess Basma was addressing an assembly of ESCWA staff who were also celebrating the anniversary of the implementation of the U.N. charter.

The event was organised by ESCWA Executive Secretary Sabah Bakjaji who expressed appreciation to the Kingdom for hosting the organisation

and "greatly facilitating its work."

The celebration also featured a broadcast of the speech of Dr. Ghali in which he concluded that "A new chapter in the history of the world has begun. It calls into being a new United Nations. I ask everyone to consider and come forward to assist the United Nations at this moment of importance for all peoples now, and in the decades ahead."

To commemorate the founding of the United Nations in 1945, United Nations Day is celebrated each year on Oct. 24.

2-day Euro-Arab symposium concentrates on Muslim rules, values in an economic system

By Katharine Rath
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A two-day symposium on "Ethics in Economy: Euro-Arab Perspective," which primarily concentrated on the issue of Muslim rules and values and their interpretation as well as implementation in a modern economic system, concluded Sunday.

The discussion, jointly organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), opened Saturday with the presentation of a paper entitled "The Principle of Economic Order in Christian Social Ethics" by professor of Christian social sciences, at the University of Osnabrück Manfred Spieker.

Comments centred on the question of how to define the "common good" of the society as well as on the problem of the separation of church and state.

One of the Arab participants asked how religion can influence the state when such a separation exists.

Dr. Spieker suggested that the influence will be exerted by laymen who are believers and who, through their dealings in daily life, follow religious principles. Although several of the papers presented talked about what the Koran prescribes on zakat, social welfare, riba (usury) and economic affairs from a theoretical perspective, the discussion made direct references to the existing economic order, pointing to the problems of implementing these prescriptions.

Two of the participants called for the symposium to first look at and evaluate the present reality, then formulate a model for the future. Another said that neither the Islamic world nor the Christian world has succeeded in implementing a system providing for social justice.

The two proponents of assessing the status quo maintained that only after solving the problems within each religion would a comparison with other faiths be fruitful.

The seminar, in fact, touched on all these three stages.

One of the important ques-

tions treated by the symposium was whether a banking system corresponding to Islamic values could be efficient.

In an interview with the Jordan Times former Prime Minister of Egypt Abdel Aziz Higazi outlined the main differences between a conventional and an Islamic banking system.

In a conventional banking system, he said, interest is determined by market mechanisms, the rates are pre-set and there is the existence of so-called sleeping partners who, unless the enterprise goes bankrupt, automatically receive their profit.

The Islamic banking system is radically different. Those who participate with capital also share directly in the risk. Profit or loss depends on the management of the institution, not the fluctuations of the market, said Dr. Higazi who is a

founder of the Nasr Social Bank and Islamic Bank of Jeddah.

The administration, he added, can be controlled by the contributors.

Islamic banks invest a large part of their assets in trade; the rate of profit is therefore linked to the standard of living of the country in which it operates as well as the commodities the country trades in, he explained.

Lending and borrowing is prohibited except in certain cases where interest is not taken, Dr. Higazi said.

Asked about the main problems in Islamic banking, Dr. Higazi said that "there is not yet a proper understanding of the principles." The people in charge are still thinking in terms of conventional banking, he added.

The paper on "Ethics and

Economics, an Islamic Perspective," presented by associate professor of economics at the King Abdul Aziz University of Jeddah Mohammad Ali Bin Eid, provoked a lengthy discussion on zakat, taxation and social security system.

The participants dissented on the legality of imposing tax in an Islamic economic system. Some of the discussants drew a distinction between zakat and taxation and regarded the latter as being incompatible with Islamic teachings, while others presented a wider interpretation of zakat, viewing taxation as an extension of this concept and a necessary adaptation to a modern socio-economic system.

Professor of economics at the University of Bochum Volker Nienhaus, who presented a paper outlining the conception of the social market economy,

said the Islamic world needed to seek a model where social welfare is an integrated part of the system, not merely an appendix to the economic system as is the case in Egypt. Such a model, he said, can be formulated using the zakat as a nucleus, but with the possibility of freely distributing the collected funds.

Dr. Nienhaus believed that the Islamic world can benefit from the social market economy model. There are similarities between the German and the Islamic model, as well as common problems, he said.

It is important to establish what is the role of faith and what is the role of reason, Dr. Nienhaus continued. Both have their place in a debate on ethics, but religious texts can only form a base from which a debate can be conducted, he concluded.

Meeting proposed to create disaster management centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will soon call for a special meeting of representatives from Arab and Islamic nations to discuss the establishment of a centre in Amman for training, personnel on disaster management, according to Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi Sunday.

He told a press conference at his office that he had floated the idea at a conference which he attended in Cairo in the past week to chart the work for a world Islamic council.

The centre idea was welcomed by the delegates attending the conference, who, the minister said, also praised Jordan's efforts for hosting displaced Bosnian families.

Dr. Abbadi, who is secretary general of the Hashemite Charity Organisation which arranged to host the Bosnians, expressed hope that the prop-

osed centre will materialise as soon as possible with support and assistance from international organisations.

Referring to the conference in Cairo, attended by representatives of official and private Islamic organisations of the Arab World, Dr. Abbadi said that it was the fifth constituent assembly meeting by the delegates who, he said, focused on promoting relief assistance to needy Muslims. "I have outlined to the conference the ministry of awqaf's activities and its care of the holy shrines, in Jerusalem under the directives of His Majesty King Hussein, including the restoration of Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock," said Dr. Abbadi.

The Jordanian delegation distributed a copy of the government's memorandum on its stand vis-a-vis the latest Israeli court ruling which was considered an encroachment on

Arab and Islamic sovereignty over the holy places in Jerusalem, continued the minister.

The delegates to the Cairo conference have unanimously condemned the Israeli court ruling, which considers the holy places under Israeli jurisdiction, and they demanded that all Arab and Islamic states take actions to abort the Israeli move and thus safeguard the shrines, according to the minister.

The conference also paid tribute to Jordan's efforts to protect the holy places.

Labour ministry to draft new law

IRBID (Petra) — Minister of Labour Khaled Ghazawi Sunday said here that in its efforts to protect the benefits and rights of the Jordanian worker and safeguarding employer-employee relations, the ministry is preparing a draft law that would normalise relations between the two sides, adding that the bill would be among the first issues to be discussed by the new parliament.

During a tour of Irbid governorate, Mr. Ghazawi said the ministry is also keen on finding work for jobs seekers in factories and other companies and institutions and will try diligently to contain the unemployment problem in Jordan.

Speaking after the tour, the minister said that 14,000 people are employed in the government of whom 1,500 are non-Jordanians who are employed mainly in farming and jobs shunned by Jordanians.

Rocco Forte to tour Middle East

Mr. Rocco Forte, chairman of Forte Plc, will shortly begin a four-day tour of the Middle East. The tour will include visits to Forte hotels properties in Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Dubai and concludes in Jordan.

This will be Mr. Forte's first visit to the region since his appointment as chairman of the group a year ago. He will be accompanied throughout his tour by Mr. Roy Turry, deputy group director operations, Mr. Bob Lienhard, group strategy director, Mr. Randolph Guthrie, managing director, Forte Grand Hotels worldwide (who also visited the region last month) and Mr. Gerald Lawless, vice president Forte hotels Middle East and Africa.

Mr. Rocco Forte, son of Lord Forte the founder of the group, has made a life-long career with Forte hotels. He has held his current position as chairman of Forte Plc since October 1992.

Mr. Forte last toured the region just over two years ago, in September 1991, as chief executive of the group. He also visited the Diplomat Hotel, Bahrain, in February 1992, to celebrate the hotel's 10th anniversary.

Since the Forte Hotels Regional Office opened in Dubai early last year, the group has under-



Mr. Rocco Forte, Chairman Forte Plc

taken an ambitious programme of expansion. This has included the establishment of a Central Reservations Office — a centralised booking system based in Dubai which covers the whole of the region — and the opening of an additional sales office in Saudi Arabia.

Forte hotels has also opened two new properties in the Middle East within the past year — the Forte Grand Pyramids in Cairo and the Forte Grand Abu Dhabi. This brings the total number of Forte properties in the region to a total of six. Forte's seventh property in the region, the Forte Grand Jumeira Beach, is currently under construction.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Jerash gems by Paula Williams-Brown and portraits by Ahmad Ismail at the Gallery Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental (8:00 a.m. - 7 p.m. daily except Friday).
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Mukhallad Al Mukhtar entitled "Colours on Black Paper" at La Cas Exhibition Hall (5th Circle).
- ★ Photo and painting exhibition on environment at the University of Jordan Exhibition Hall.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Sabah Hadidi at the Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "The Spirit of the Youth" by artist Muhammad Al Lahham at the Baladina Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Farouq Lambaz at the Alla Art Gallery.
- ★ The Petra Exhibition — a presentation of the activities of Jordanian and international institutions involved in archaeological, ethnographic and environmental research in the Petra region at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artists Mahmoud Taha and Salman Abbas at Al'asad Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of etchings by Muhammad Omar Khalil at Dara Al Fann of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing the permanent exhibition. Telephone 643251/2.

FILMS

- ★ Feature film entitled "Les Belles De Nuit" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

LECTURES & SEMINARS

- ★ Lecture entitled "Teaching Thinking Skills" by Dr. Turki Diah at the British Council at 5:30 p.m.
- ★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "A Critical Study of the Experience of Joint Arab Action" by Dr. Mahmoud Ali Al Dawoud at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- ★ Lecture entitled "Tree Kings and Archaeology: The Use of Dendrochronology in the Middle East for Dating" by Dr. Pierre Billaud at the American Center of Oriental Research at 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Workshop on writing and tuning of children's songs at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. (lasts two days).

For the First Time in Jordan



The National Music Conservatory/
Noor Al Hussein Foundation

presents

A Pop Music Festival

Los Morenos, Dead Sea Fishing Club, Faculty "X" and others

Palace of Culture - Al Hussein Sports City
Saturday, October 30, 1993 at 7:30 p.m.

⦿ Dazzling Lights, ⦿ Impressive Sounds,

⦿ A Jordanian Lalopalooza ⦿

Muhammad Al Jazireh and Rania Kassieh, Hosts
Jesse Juma, Coordinator

Featuring Hit Songs by: Pink Floyd, Phil Collins, Santana, U2, Bruce Springsteen and others.

Tickets for JD 5, 4 and 3 are available at:
- Palace of Culture, tel. 688151
- Babiche, tel. 661322

- Romero Restaurant, tel. 844227
- Philadelphia Hotel, tel. 607100
- The National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620

Jordan Times

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Ethics and politics

WHEN BILL Clinton telephoned King Fahd of Saudi Arabia earlier this summer to urge him to buy American Boeings instead of European Airbus, the American president was doing business on behalf of American industry. And when his predecessor, George Bush, massed American troops in Saudi Arabia in 1990 to dislodge Iraq's occupying forces from Kuwait, he did not do it in defence of Kuwait or Saudi Arabia but in defence of the "American way of life," dependent on Kuwaiti and Saudi oil. Whether this or that is ethical depends on one's point of view. What moved armies and created conflicts and turmoil has always been interests not ethics. Conquest throughout history, with all the misery that it had inflicted on people, has always been done in pursuit of gain, wealth and resources but disguised as goodness and noble objectives. Human conflict, whether on the individual or the state level, has always centred on material gains. It had always been aggravated by greed, grandeur and recently standard of living. In his recent history, man has turned to be more subtle in his exploitation of fellow man. The rich nations that carried the banner of fraternity, equality and liberty have turned into monstrous exploiters of the poor and their natural resources. We do not need to review the whole history of the Americas or the colonial era to explore the extent of the North's mistreatment of the South. Africa's many famines testify to this.

What we in the North and South need to realise that the discrepancy in the distribution of wealth and the misuse of the Earth's resources will eventually lead to more misery, injustice and conflict. If the North continues to use its military, material and economic power to subject the peoples of the South, only turmoil will result. Recent terrorism might only be a mild manifestation of the conflict compared to what the future holds.

Now that the human race ponders a new world order that is based on human rights, the right to decent living should be viewed as a fundamental factor in the quest for a stable world. That is why Jordan and its leadership advocate the writing and application of business ethics that should guide human interdependence and interaction in the coming era. Ethics, per se, might sound an outdated word for many, but it had been the keyword at turning points in human history.

And for a better and meaningful life for the peoples of Earth at this crucial point, and for a world in peace, ethics, whether religious or secular, should be recalled, activated and enhanced.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily bitterly criticised the United States for its continued pressure on the Arab countries to lift its boycott against Israel, which still occupies Arab lands. Tareq Masarweh said that the boycott regulations were imposed by the Arab World to punish Israel for its aggression and to force it to give up the usurped lands; therefore, lifting of the boycott is out of the question at present. The writer said that Washington is threatening the Arabs by preventing any progress along the Syrian-Israeli and the Lebanese-Israeli tracks if they do not agree to ending the boycott against Israel. Furthermore, it is regrettable to see the Arab countries complying with Washington's orders and delaying a meeting in Damascus to discuss further restrictions on Israel if it continues to occupy Arab lands, said the writer. The PLO was the first Arab party to agree to postponing such a meeting as it seems it is no more concerned with maintaining the boycott against Israel, continued the writer. He said that if the PLO is indifferent about this matter, it should not object to the Gulf countries ending the boycott against Israel. If Israel is imposing its will on the Arab countries before any peace has been achieved, we wonder what the situation will be after the signing of a peace treaty, said the writer.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i tackled the chronic problem of insufficient drugs in government hospitals and pharmacies of the private and the public sectors. Many pharmacists attribute the absence of numerous brands of drugs to the fact that the government has recently raised, from JD 5 to JD 100, the fee for the Health Ministry Drug Control Department's laboratory testing of samples of drugs whether manufactured locally or imported from other countries, said Nazih. The writer said that by raising the fee for the test, the Health Ministry has emptied the shelves of the drugstores and left the patients in need of medication suffering. By so doing, said the writer, the Health Ministry has almost sentenced the patients with chronic diseases to death since they are no more able to buy their medicine in Jordan and cannot travel abroad to buy their medicine each time they are in need of it.

Camp David, PLO-Israel accords — better, worse or ...?

By Pascal B. Karmy

It is somewhat difficult to draw up a detailed comparison between the Camp David Accords and the PLO-Israel Accord of Sept. 13, 1993, the reason being that the negotiations between Egypt and Israel for the establishment of a detailed self-rule for the Palestinians faltered and then failed and were never revived.

The main cause of this failure was the fact that Egypt insisted from the outset that the council envisaged for the Palestinians in the Camp David Accords should have real legislative and national authority while Israel, whose prime minister was then the Likudnik Menachem Begin, would have none of that. Thus, no detailed accord for the self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip was drawn up comparable to the lengthy PLO-Israel Accord and its Annexes of 1993. To clarify matters, it is necessary to explain the Camp David Accords and to try to compare them to the PLO-Israel Accord.

The Camp David Accords include the following:

1. Framework for peace in the Middle East concerning the West Bank and Gaza, dated Sept. 17, 1978.
2. Framework for a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, dated Sept. 17, 1978.
3. The Egyptian-Israeli Treaty, dated March 26, 1979.

4. Letter dated March 26, 1979, addressed to the president of the U.S. (Carter) and signed by Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin on behalf of Egypt and Israel respectively.

The main provisions of the framework for peace concerning the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including the above mentioned letter, are the following:

In the first stage, transitional arrangements should be set up for a period of five years. Under these arrangements, the inhabitants would enjoy full "autonomy" and elect a self-governing authority called an "administrative council." Following such election, the Israeli military government and its civilian administration would be withdrawn, but Israeli forces would be redeployed to specified locations.

In the second stage, Israel and Jordan would agree on the modalities for establishing the self-governing authority and would define its powers and responsibilities.

Finally, after the establishment of the self-governing authority, the transitional period of five years would begin to run. Then, not later than the third year after the beginning of the transitional period, negotiations would take place to determine the final status of the West Bank and Gaza.

With regard to the refugee problem, a special committee comprising Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the self-governing authority would decide on the modalities of admission of persons displaced from the West Bank and Gaza as a result of the 1967 war. As to refugees of 1948, Egypt and Israel would establish procedures for the resolution of their problem. It should be pointed out that neither Jordan nor the Palestinians participated in the negotiations.

When Egypt and Israel started negotiations to establish the powers and responsibilities of the self-governing authority (the council), Israel insisted from the outset that the administrative council would have certain administrative and municipal powers, excluding the exercise of legislative powers or any powers which may lead to sovereign state.

In effect, Israel meant the autonomy for the Palestinians to apply to the inhabitants and not to the territory. In its view, Israel would retain sovereignty, including control of public lands and water resources, as well as settling Jews in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Egypt, on the other hand, insisted that the council have real legislative authority over the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but Israel rejected Egypt's contentions and consequently, negotiations stopped and were never revived.

On considering the PLO-Israel Accord of 1993 and the provisions proposed in the Camp David Accords, one would conclude that in some respects they are similar. It cannot, however, be contested that the accord of 1993 is a definite improvement as compared to the accords of 1978 and it contains certain features which, I believe, could not have been agreed to by Israel in 1979 nor had the Likud Party remained in power in 1993. The distinctive features in the accord of 1993 are the following:

1. The recognition of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people, as evidenced by the exchange of letters dated Sept. 9, 1993, between Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO, and Yitzhak Rabin, prime minister of Israel.

2. Recognition of the existence of the Palestinians as a people and not simply as Arabs living in the "Land of Israel", as used to be alleged by the Likud Party and its leaders.

3. Recognition of the legitimate and "political" rights of the Palestinian people. This may involve the right to self-determination of the Palestinians.

4. The election of a council as an interim self-governing authority for a transitional period not exceeding five years, leading to a permanent settlement based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

The two resolutions embody the principles of non-acquisition of territory by force and the exchange of land for peace with the Palestinians. This is an implicit recognition that the West Bank and Gaza Strip are occupied territories from which Israel will have to withdraw.

5. The election of the self-governing authority will be held under agreed supervision and "international" observation. In the past, Israel never accepted any international supervision of the elections.

6. The elected council will have jurisdiction on the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a single territorial entity whose integrity will be preserved during the interim period.

7. The Palestinians of Jerusalem who live there will have the right to participate in the election process.

8. The elected council will have executive and "legislative" authority on matters specified in Article VI, namely education and culture, health, social welfare, direct taxation and tourism and on other matters agreed upon.

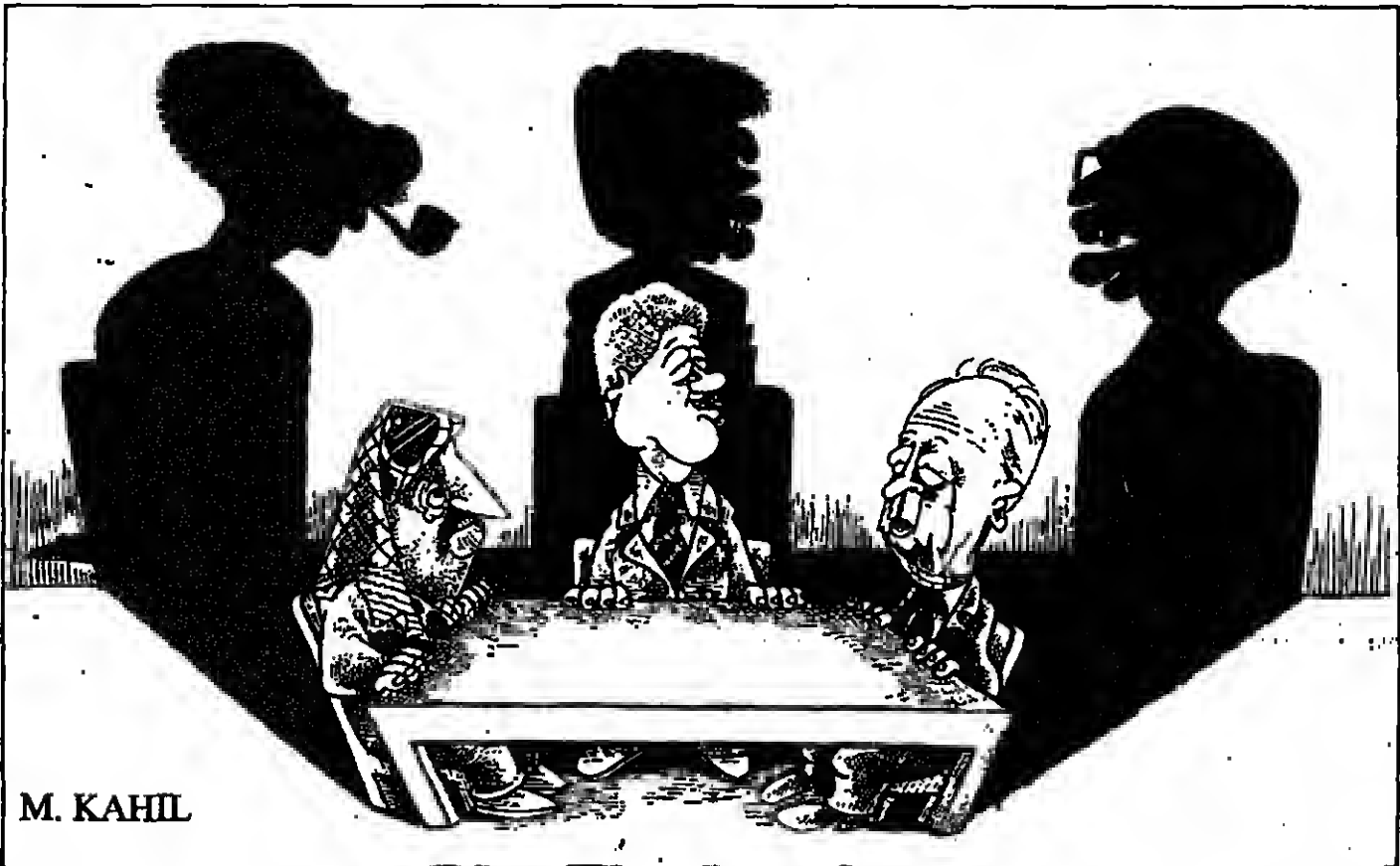
9. The elected council can establish a Palestinian Land Authority and a Palestinian Water Authority.

10. Jerusalem, which was considered by Israel as non-

negotiable, is now one of the issues that are subject to negotiation during the permanent status negotiations. The other issues are settlements, refugees, security arrangements, borders and Israelis.

It is believed by Palestinians that the PLO-Israel Accord would and should lead to an independent Palestine state as it is inconceivable that two million Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, apart from three other million refugees in the diaspora, most of whom are living in the Arab states bordering Israel, would remain politically subservient to Israeli domination.

Our age is characterised by the rise of nationalisms clamouring for independence. Palestinians cannot and should not be an exception, particularly as they have been struggling for decades to attain national and political independence which they indeed deserve. Israel is certainly aware of the present strong current of national awareness of peoples and cannot go against it. And as one writer expressed it: "A democratic state (like Israel) cannot prevent another democratic society acknowledged to be a different nation from becoming an independent state."



M. KAHIL

Challenges to Bhutto's Pakistan

By S. Farooq Hasnat

When it came to the finale, on Oct. 19, Benazir Bhutto won the confidence of the newly-elected National Assembly, with a comfortable margin of 121 votes against 72 of her opponent, the former prime minister, Nawaz Sharif.

The Pakistan Muslim League (PML) of Nawaz Sharif fought a tough electoral battle with that of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), in which Benazir Bhutto, along with her allies, gained a narrow lead in the National Assembly as well as in the most populous province of the Punjab. But she was able to muster the independents and smaller groups to vote for her as the chief executive of the country.

The Bhuttos have gained power for the third time in Pakistan's interrupted political history — Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, 1971-1977; Benazir, 1988-1990, and again in 1993, for a five-year term. Since 1985, no prime minister has completed its full term — Mohammad Khan Jinnah, 1985-1988; Benazir Bhutto, 1988-1990; Nawaz Sharif, 1990-1993.

Although the election campaign was based more on mudslinging and less on issues, there are scores of demands that the newly-installed prime minister would confront. Given the resetting stage of the global and regional developments, it will not be an easy task for her to address sufficiently all the ailments originating from the domestic as well as international sources.

There are at least three requirements that, to begin with, must be fulfilled by her party. The first priority, which has a twin dimension, forms the basis of all other achievements — it is that of an extremely low 24 per cent literacy rate and an alarming population growth rate of around three per cent. The mentioned variables have a strong correlation with each other. This dangerous combination can cause a nightmare for any country that aspires to enter the 21st century with an



Benazir Bhutto

identity of a middle income society.

The international experts do acknowledge that given the prevalent human potential and the favourably existing land-population ratio, Pakistan has a fair chance, in the near future, to become a modern nation in a real sense of the word. The meagre two per cent budgetary finances allocated for education have been exceedingly low by any standards. Other developing nations grant a share of 25 per cent or more for the same sector. The Oxford and Harvard educated new chief executive must deal with these matters on a priority basis.

One of the hindrances in the promotion of a modern Pakistani society has been the extralegal and the misuse of power by some sectors of the "establishment" or a colonial style bureaucratic machinery. They are found everywhere on the land — from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to that of the Income Tax Department.

This menace exists from the inception of Pakistan, thriving on weak political process and poorly organised political parties as well as a prolonged spell of dictatorial rule in the country. The Pakistani bureaucrats remind one of the British colonial days when their counterparts ruled with a particular affectation of dominance but without any sensitivity towards the basic necessities of the people at large. It was a system more established

on certain requirements of a self-created protocol and display of authority — rather than on valid realities.

The claimant to be the representative of the common man, the PPP has been accused by its critics that when in power it fails to address this menace in Pakistan. Now, elected for a third tenure, the PPP would be under pressure to pay attention to the given problem and a complete replacement of the "establishment" has to be undertaken. No doubt it would confront stiff opposition but then the prime minister has gained a mandate from the people who are the source of real power in the country. It cannot be expected that with the vehicle of 18th century the Pakistani society can accomplish the requirements of the next century.

In the field of foreign affairs, government of Benazir Bhutto leaves a lot to be desired. Because of lack of appropriate foresight and haphazard strategy, Pakistan has lost consistently a lot of ground in its otherwise favourable environment of the Middle East, in particular, Pakistan is virtually on a diplomatic retreat from the area as nothing has changed within the policy-making structures, especially when the universal requirements have undergone dramatic convulsions in the past five or six years. A method has to be evolved by the incumbents to introduce additional imagination and insight so as to cope with the challenges posed by a more complicated world arena.

Apart from the structural changes, the new prime minister has to deal with the policy positions on vital issues. The matter of grave concern for Pakistan remains with its peaceful nuclear programme and the American biased attitude towards it. A decision has to be taken by the Pakistani government when the NPT goes for a ratification in 1995 — whether to adhere to the present policy of not signing the treaty or adopt an alterna-

tive course of action! Pakistan has not signed the treaty, arguing that its affirmation to the NPT must concur with that of its nuclear neighbour, India.

The second issue that Ms. Bhutto has to face, emerges from the Indian reaction caused by the success of the Kashmiri liberation movement. A scared adversary can spring surprises in frustration. The Indian tactics is to make the whole operation look like a typical bilateral affair, with an obvious intention of distracting the world attention. It would require diplomatic skills from the Pakistani prime minister to keep the matter on its merits.

The third international issue of attention relates to that of the repercussions arising from the dramatic PLO-Israel reconciliation. In this context, the timing of the recognition of Israel or otherwise becomes important for the Bhutto government, with stiff domestic opposition sitting in the wings.

Although Pakistan has attached the recognition question to that of the future status of Jerusalem, a definite policy position has yet to be taken. Jordan's recent pronouncement on the issue should be nearest to that of Pakistan. It becomes an obligation by the Bhutto government — given the popular sentiments in Pakistan, to grant active and timely diplomatic support to Jordan on the issue of Jerusalem. The holy city is not a simple dispute between the Israelis and the PLO. It has a much larger dimension.

For solving the above-mentioned structural basis and issue-oriented business, the next regime in Pakistan has to possess an exceptional stamina. The future lies in the world of domestic economic viability and alert diplomacy. Nations failing in both would find it hard to survive with dignity.

The author, a professor of political science at the University of Punjab, Lahore, is currently working with the Centre for Strategic Studies at Jordan University. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

LETTERS

Unacceptable behaviour

To the Editor:

I owe it to your wonderful country, and the memory of my late grandfather, to write about the one unfortunate experience I was subjected to during an otherwise outstanding holiday in the Hashemite Kingdom.

My grandfather served in Amman during the very early days of the Emirate of Transjordan. His consuming hobby was to relate to me and my brother his experiences with the people of this country.

I leave tomorrow, to go home to England, after spending a week in your country, and I can understand better the love my grandfather cherished for the Jordanians.

Our driver handled the coach, and his passengers, with extreme care and charm. Our guide was a walking encyclopedia with a big heart for the elderly amongst us, going back and forth along our lines, a shepherd tending his flock. And what could I say about the friendly staff at the hotel in Amman and Petra? It is heart-warming to see that the hospitality of the Jordanians that my grandfather met, several decades ago, continues to live on in their descendants.

However, to have this image shattered in Petra, your highest treasure, is more than just a pity. To be subjected at my age to uncouth advances from the horseman is demeaning, to say the least.

My husband's mount was jabbed on two occasions in the Sig by the horseman when John refused to pay a tip (which we understood was included in the fee). It was John's horse-ship that stopped him from falling off. And even then, he was thrown against the hard rock twice, and his right shoulder bruised.

Our guide, sadly, did not report these incidents. When we pressed him to do something, he explained that he would be afraid to report the horseman to the Tourist Police, as they (the horsemen) would make his life "very difficult." Apparently, such incidents have been happening quite frequently recently, ever since the Tourist Police increased the fee substantially in the hope of stopping the horsemen from asking for tips. In fact, the only place we have been to during our tour where we were asked for tips was at Petra.

Your country, and your countrymen are treasures. Please do not let such irresponsible and greedy people destroy the esteem that John and I, and many others (I am sure), have for Jordan.

Edwina Fitz-Holmes, Amman.

Editor's note: Upon learning of the contents of this letter yesterday, the minister of tourism, Dr. Mohammad Adwan, informed us that he had ordered an immediate inquiry into the above incident and promised to enforce the law against its perpetrators. The ministry will take all necessary measures to prevent repetition of such incidents, the minister said, whether they are directed against our citizens or tourists. Jordan will not tolerate such acts against our guests, Dr. Adwan stressed, and those found guilty of committing them will be brought to justice.

Deadly road

To the Editor:

I am writing this after having seen two bad car accidents that caused death this week on the Irbid-Amman road that passes through Zarqa.

This dangerous road is causing death weekly if not daily. Unfortunately, it is the only road we have these days connecting the "bride of the north," Irbid, to the capital, Amman.

Irbid has the third largest population in Jordan, which means that thousands of people move back and forth every day between the two cities. I am one of those who hate to go to Amman because I have to drive my car on this dangerous road.

We were promised a highway from Irbid to Amman a long time ago. And as we know, they started work on it, it was supposed to be finished three years ago, but now we were told that it will take another year before they are able to open it. I am wondering how many more lives will be lost before it is actually finished.

I believe more attention should be paid to solving the problem of this dangerous road, especially that winter is just around the corner. The authorities realise, we hope, that the rate of accidents increases during the rainy season and snowstorms.

Amgad M. Fram, P.O. Box 1184, Irbid.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Snippets and tidbits from campaign '93

Days before Nov. 8: Balloons in the air; stillness on the ground

The 1993 elections campaign, serious as it appears, is not devoid of a light — sometimes funny — side. There are tidbits about news, views and comments about the campaign that will appear (hopefully) every day in this corner until it is all over on Nov. 8. Humour is intended in the column, in no way libel.



Abdul Karim Kabariti

THE AMENDMENT of the Election Law to a one-person, one-vote system has not only thrown the candidates off track; the voters too do not know how to deal with it. In the case of the Maan Governorate (which includes the towns of Maan, Aqaba, Shobak, Wadi Mousa and Taybeh among others) the new law has managed to split families between youths and elders. According to election observers in that governorate, some young men of Wadi Mousa and neighbouring Taybeh have entered into a not-so-public struggle with their elders because the first group is committed to voting for one candidate while the older generation wants everybody to vote for another, more conservative candidate. The choice of the young is Abdul Karim Kabariti, a liberal politician who hails from Aqaba, while the tribal leaders' favourite is Awad Khleifat who comes from Taybeh. There would have been no problem between the two generations, had the old bloc-voting system remained in force, since every voter could have chosen the two. Now, however, the two hopefuls, both former ministers, have to fight out, apparently for the number one position for the whole constituency.

Maan, the capital of the governorate, has only a small problem in this regard. Everybody (or almost everybody) tends to think conservative there.

THE GOVERNMENT of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali is continuing to lose friends right, left and centre. Having incurred the wrath of the Islamists by banning them from rallying publicly, and the leftists for other reasons, the government now has only its arms to rely on. But one of those arms has also come under attack this past week. Aref Abu Keraki, the district governor of Ramtha, was accused yesterday of interfering in the elections. According to a press release by the party's office in Irbid Governorate, "(Mr. Abu Keraki) stopped one of the banner calligraphers working for our candidates, Jamil Al Nimri. The governor had demanded that the parliamentary hopeful should get approval for the content of his banners before they can be put up." Mr. Nimri, who is the editor-in-chief of Al Ahali weekly, is running for elections in the Irbid district. One apologist for government policy commented that "if

anyone thinks that the government is just biting left and right, it is also aiming for the centre of the political spectrum. "The apologist was referring to the banning of election debates in the Salt Cultural Forum earlier on in the campaign. Salt is situated in the central part of the Kingdom geographically. The only one who appears to have escaped the heavy hand of the government is Dr. Ali Al Faqir, who is a hardline independent Islamist running for elections in Amman's first district. Dr. Fa-

qir this week published an ad inviting his voters to congregate at five different places in his district. And all will be open-air rallies.

THERE WERE other complaints in the same northern area. It is said that the head of the elections committee in Irbid has a vested (and personal) interest in supporting one of the candidates since he is, well, his brother. "Those who are known to be voting for someone else are purposefully hassled by the commit-

tee under his wing," charged one of those who are complaining.

PERHAPS THE most descriptive advertisement in the election campaign was that for "Abu Maazouz," not the candidate but the mussakhan, the great Palestinian dish which is made of chicken, lots of onions and herbs. "Vote for mussakhan Abu Maazouz," the ad said.

"Yes to olive oil, no to imported oils, yes to pine nuts, no to almonds, yes

to fresh chicken, no to imported chicken," the ad went on. At the bottom of the box, there were bloc letters that read "yes ... yes ... to taboun bread. "The ad, one of the readers commented, was missing one necessary slogan.

"It should have highlighted the need to protect national unity with man-saf, its Jordanian counterpart national dish. "And perhaps moved its headquarters away from opposite the Iraqi embassy, another reader commented.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS (AP) dispatched a sort of funny story yesterday which implied "cooperation" between Jordan and Israel on election matters. According to the news agency "an Israeli helium balloon bearing election slogans in Hebrew 'infiltrated' Jordanian skies Sunday, puzzling a people

more used to reading Arab nationalist slogans.

The (small balloons) were found by children playing in the Umm Uthaina district of Amman. "The agency said that, "everyone knew the writing was Hebrew, but it could very well have been Greek until someone who could

read the script arrived (on the scene) and figured out that it was indeed election slogans. Apparently the balloons broke their moorings somewhere in Israel. Israel has country-wide municipal elections Nov. 2." Someone who

read the agency report wondered whether our elections slogans would have drifted across the border "had the minister of interior allowed our candidates to use things that fly in our election campaign."

NERMEEN MURAD

Iraqi opposition has little credibility—book

By Edith M. Lederer
The Associated Press

LONDON — The Iraqi opposition movement hasn't toppled Saddam Hussein because it is fragmented among nearly 100 rival groups that have little credibility with Iraqis, according to a new book.

Author Ibrahim Nawar, an Egyptian journalist and businessman, said the groups could get rid of Saddam Hussein if they united, began operating inside Iraq, and reduced reliance on international support.

"But according to what we see now, I don't think they can achieve anything against Saddam," Mr. Nawar, 42, said in an interview Tuesday.

Mr. Nawar, who previously worked for the Centre for Strategic Studies in Cairo, said he interviewed opposition leaders ranging from far-right Islamic groups to communists. The 384-page book, titled "Iraqi Opposition and the Struggle to Remove Saddam," was published in Arabic last week.

The author said he began writing the book after abortive uprising by Shi'ite Muslims in southern Iraq and Kurds in northern Iraq after the Gulf war ended in February 1991. Their failure highlighted the continuing divisions among opposition groups.

Before the war, Mr. Nawar said, only about seven organisations were working against Saddam Hussein. Today there are about 100 opposition groups, many of them the product of spinoffs and splits.

"That's because some of the Iraqis think it's a profitable business," he said. "Some of the Iraqi opposition think when they raise this flag against Saddam they will get some support from the West, from Saudi Arabia, from Kuwait or from others."

He said Dr. Mahmoud Othman, head of the Kurdistan Socialist Party, told him Iraqi opposition groups had received about \$40 million in support from foreign countries. But Dr. Othman didn't now where much of the money went.

Mr. Nawar said Dr. Othman told him, "if they dare, they can come out and tell us."

If the various groups are serious about getting rid of

Saddam Hussein, Mr. Nawar said, they must reduce their reliance on Saddam Hussein's regional and western enemies — including Iran, Syria and Saudi Arabia — and start relying on themselves.

"This will actually open the way to unite all these groups because the main reason that these groups have so far failed to unite themselves is because they rely on different (outsider) forces," with clashing strategies, he said.

Opposition defence on foreign backing has undermined its support inside Iraq because even though most Iraqis don't like Saddam Hussein, they don't want a Saudi, Syrian or Iranian-backed government to replace him, Mr. Nawar said.

There are "scattered actions" inside Iraq now, he said, but they aren't unified or coordinated.

Thirdly, Mr. Nawar said, "they have to learn how to be democratic among themselves first, to gain credibility among the Iraqi people."

And, while the groups talk about how they are going to rebuild Iraq in the post-Saddam era, he said, "nobody talks to you about how they're going to remove Saddam."

Mr. Nawar said the most important opposition forces are:

— The Dawa Party, the main Islamic force inside Iraq, which has become increasingly anti-Iranian.

— The Iranian-backed High Council for Islamic Revolution.

— The Iraqi National Accord or Al Wifak, a mostly nationalist group headed by former U.N. Ambassador Salah Omar al Ali.

— The Free Iraqi Council, a liberal group headed by U.S.-educated Shi'ite Muslim Saad Saleh Jabr, whose father was prime minister.

— The Kurdistan National Front, which include about eight organisations under Masoud Barzani and Jalal Talbani.

In addition, he said, the umbrella Iraqi National Conference "has not been able so far to unite and bring other organisations together to work in harmony against" Saddam Hussein.

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هنا من الأول

Gulf Air mulls privatisation

ABU DHABI (R) — The president of Gulf Air said the regional carrier owned by four Gulf Arab governments was considering privatisation plans.

Salim Bin Ali Assiyabi told reporters the airline had paid in its 100 million Bahraini dinars (\$253 million) authorised capital and expected to complete in 1994 a feasibility study on whether privatising would be profitable.

"We reckon privatisation (leads to) success because it enjoys support... being owned

by people who have commitment," he said Saturday night. "It is self-motivated."

The sale of shares was first proposed in 1984. The board considered it again in 1989 but shelved it until the airline achieved steady profit.

Mr. Assiyabi said the percentage of shares to be sold had not yet been decided. The airline is owned by Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates state of Abu Dhabi. Its bylaws give owners the right to offer up to 49 per

cent of its shares to their citizens.

Mr. Assiyabi said 1993 profits could be the same or perhaps less than 1992 profits and the company would continue over the next few years to transfer a portion of profits to capital.

He did not say how much Gulf Air made last year, but a senior official at the Bahrain headquarters said Sunday the net profit in 1992 was 17 million dinars (\$45 million).

Mr. Assiyabi said Gulf Air would expand its fleet from 39 to 42 planes by the end of 1996 by phasing out eight Tristars and seven Boeing 737s and replacing them with 18 Airbus and Boeings.

Gulf Air is due to receive eight new Airbus A-320s by 1994 and has also ordered another six Airbus A-340s and four Boeing 767-300 ers.

Mr. Assiyabi said the airline had already invested about \$2 billion for the planes and parts.

Optimism waning in German industry, institute says

MUNICH, Germany (R) — Despite assessments that the recession has bottomed out, western German companies are still getting gloomier about business prospects, a survey published Sunday showed.

But in sharp contrast to recession-hit western Germany, east Germany's industrial sector, ravaged by closures and production cuts over the last two years but now over the worst, again reported that both current and expectations were improving.

Firms in western Germany were more sceptical about recovery in September than they had been in August, according to the company survey by IFO, a leading research institute.

"In general, the number of firms with a negative outlook for the future clearly dominated," the report said.

Most firms planned to cut production, even though incoming orders and orders in hand hardly changed over the month.

The key capital goods sector, western Germany's biggest export earner, reported that it had failed to register the hoped-for improvement in foreign demands.

In consumer goods, orders

in hand were well down in September despite output cuts, and retailers were also gloomier.

The west German building sector, hard hit by high interest rates, generally expected no improvement in its fortunes for at least six months.

Some wholesale and primary production companies said they were slightly more optimistic about short- and medium-term prospects, but only because they expected business not to get any worse.

On Thursday, Hans Tietmeyer, president of the German central bank, the Bundesbank, announced surprise cuts in key short-term interest rates to help the struggling economy. He said west German gross domestic product had stagnated in the third quarter.

IFO's report for eastern Germany referred to August. It said new orders from both domestic and foreign markets had increased and most firms expected to boost production in the months ahead.

However, east German companies on average expected to shed a further five per cent of their workforces to increase efficiency.

Greek premier promises restraint in economic policy

ATHENS (R) — Greece's economic policies will remain restrictive but the drachma will not be devalued and privatisation projects will be cancelled, new Socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu told parliament Saturday.

In his first policy speech after winning a landslide victory in elections this month, Mr. Papandreu outlined his plans at the start of a three-day confidence debate for his government.

He said the market should disregard rumours of a drachma devaluation and pledged to continue Greece's long-standing effort to slash double-digit inflation and reduce nominal interest rates.

"There will not be a drachma devaluation," Mr. Papandreu said.

The country's 1993 budget deficit, which the premier estimated at about four trillion drachmas (\$16 billion), would be financed through the sale of government bonds and spending cuts.

He also said interest rate cuts would follow inflation rate deceleration but did not repeat an earlier pledge by Socialist officials for a two-point reduction in government bond yields.

Mr. Papandreu said he would cancel privatisation pro-

jects proposed by the previous conservative government such as the sale of 49 per cent of the state Hellenic Telecommunications Company (OTE).

"It is obvious that the OTE privatisation law will be immediately abolished," he said.

But Mr. Papandreu said a small part of OTE's shares and those of other public companies would be floated on the Athens Stock Exchange to raise funds for investment projects.

The premier did not make clear whether he would grant public workers 1994 pay rises above inflation after a three-year austerity programme by the conservatives.

"The incomes policy will secure workers' real income which will be increased according to the economy's progress," he said.

He also pledged to crack down on rampant tax evasion and to trim government spending as much as possible.

Mr. Papandreu said Greece, which assumes the rotating six-month presidency of the European Community (EC) on Jan. 1, would stand firm in its commitment to support the Maastricht treaty on European union.

"The EC presidency is a challenge and we will meet our obligations," he said.

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Indonesia tries harder to attract investment

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia has announced another package aimed at boosting flagging investment and overall efficiency in an economy criticised by business people for corruption and excessive bureaucracy.

"An aim is to attract investors to enhance exports," Saleh Afiff, coordinating minister for the economy, told reporters after meeting President Suharto.

Indonesia has expressed concern that much of the recent flow of foreign investment has been directed at China and other countries in the region, including Vietnam.

Under the measures, effective immediately, the government relaxed bureaucratic red-tape on customs, tax and other procedures that have deterred potential foreign investors.

Other facets of the package include job creation as well as simplified land licence and factor relocation procedures.

"The basic overall aim is... to increase the efficiency and competitiveness of our economy in facing the acceleration of globalisation and competition abroad," Mr. Afiff said.

Foreign business people have complained of the high cost of doing business in the country.

But the new measures did not appear to include a widely anticipated increase from 49 per cent in foreign ownership

of domestic companies quoted on Jakarta's booming stock market.

It is the second package this year. The first, in June, concentrated on tariff reduction, removal of certain industries from the banned list.

The latest package is being unveiled at a time when Indonesia is grappling with a foreign debt burden approaching \$90 billion and nearly 10 per cent annual inflation.

Bankers say that during the first 9½ months of this year foreign and domestic investment were down by per cent and 13.1 per cent, respectively, from the same period of 1992.

Foreign investment to mid-September was \$5.5 billion, while domestic investment stood at 19.2 trillion rupiah (\$9.14 billion), they said.

Japan is the biggest foreign investor in Indonesia, with a cumulative total of more than \$13 billion, followed by Hong Kong, Taiwan and the United States.

Mr. Afiff said improved efficiency in Indonesia's economic competitiveness was important to reach targets in the sixth five-year development plan starting next April.

Under the 1994-98 plan, OPEC-member Indonesia is aiming for an average 6.2 per cent economic growth in terms of gross domestic product and a decrease in reliance on oil and gas revenues.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY OCTOBER 25, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Mercury goes retrograde today so your labour may seem tiring and monotonous, but carry on religiously with them because you are setting the stage for long term benefits. Count your blessings.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You will have to persevere in your attempts to bring to light your special qualifications of a creative nature if you want to put them across.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Start the week by looking into what your own household expects of you and do something constructive about it, even if it takes away from other activities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Consider the various options you have with usual associates to add to your present extension of your interests in whatever your daily routines.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) There are some practical problems facing you that you need to look at in a bigger stance if you are to be able to get larger benefits.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your own personal ideas should be considered today and quickly go after them without getting your family involved in them or opposition develops.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider well what your private aims are and make quiet headway in making them a part

of your everyday existence but keep them to yourself for the moment.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Think about what you can do to close yourself with a good friend and convince this person of a idealistic plan that is vital to your happiness.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Take some time out to concentrate upon whatever your worldly activities and duties and show you are the one who forgets personal matters in civic outlets.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Think about what you can do to get a new idea for your own growth and development and sidestep the urge to ponder over unpleasant situations.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever you have in mind concerning a better handling of your basic business matters is good and don't get involved with gossiping friends.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Listen to the suggestions and desires of an outside companion who has considerable scope to own life and follow this advice instead of a scheming influential person.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think over the various activities that need an expression of your most creative skills and you can make big headway but avoid a greedy newcomer.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Love and marriage go together like horse and carriage. But I feel like the women who cleans up behind the horse!"

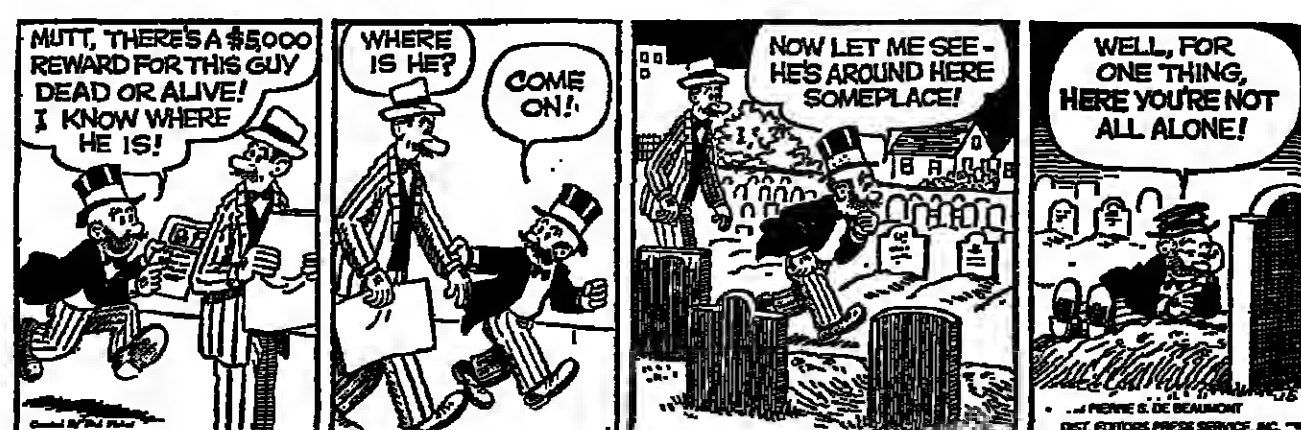
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

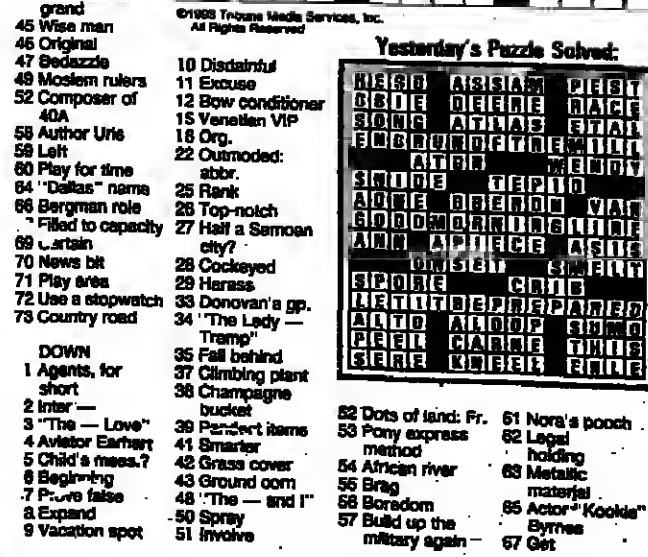
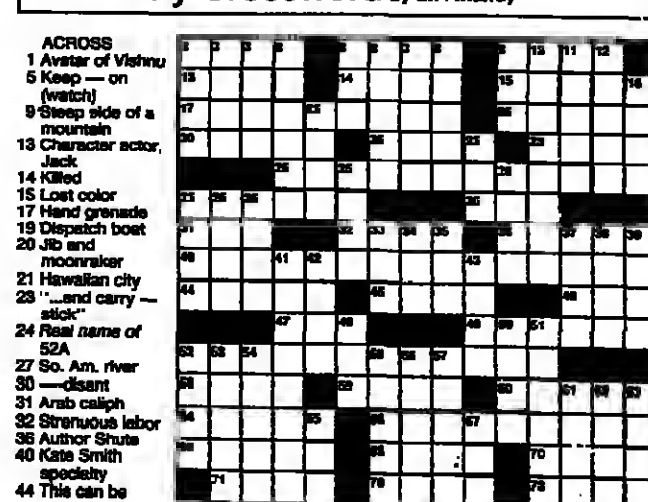
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: FLOUR BOGUS PONDER OARING
Answer: They often go out to sea in ports — PIERS

THE Daily Crossword by C.F. Murray



Food sent into Kashmir shrine

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Muslim militants and civilians holed up in a besieged Kashmir shrine for more than a week said they received the first outside food Sunday, delivered by local women.

Yet there was no sign of a breakthrough in negotiations to end the siege by Indian troops surrounding Hazratbal Mosque at Srinagar, capital of India's only Muslim-majority state — Jammu and Kashmir.

Police and official sources said the total death toll since Friday to Kashmir's anti-Indian uprising had risen to 51. A militant inside the shrine, who gave his name as Khalid, said soldiers allowed local women to deliver bread and other basic food to the lakeside compound Sunday morning.

"It is not for the militants — it's for the children, women and sick people," he told Reuters by telephone from inside the white marble building.

The government says up to 50 armed militants and 150

civilians are inside the mosque, Kashmir's holiest Muslim shrine, which holds what Kashmiris believe to be a hair of the Prophet Mohammad.

The militants will not say how many people are inside the compound, which was sealed off by troops late on Oct. 15.

The inmates have refused government offers of food in the past few days out of suspicion, despite their hunger.

Journalists were not able to verify with soldiers on the spot whether food had gone into the compound because of curfew restrictions in several parts of Srinagar.

Government spokesman Mehmoood-Ur-Rehman said he could not immediately confirm the delivery. "It may be a fact. I do not know," he told reporters.

There were other signs that the declared army policy of starving out the militants might be easing.

Telephone links with the

shrine, which appeared to have been cut in the siege, were working again by Saturday night.

Khalid said tap water supplies were also restored Saturday afternoon. But he said people who drank the water started vomiting.

Mr. Rehman said any suggestion that the government was deliberately supplying contaminated water was false.

One of the government's two main negotiators, Wajahat Habibullah, said he was returning to the mosque for more talks Sunday.

There was no sign of compromise by the militants, who continued to demand that troops lift the siege.

"They have to leave this place," Mr. Khalid said.

A senior official said the government was becoming increasingly desperate as the siege dragged on, acting as a powerful focus for more anti-Indian demonstrations.

Some of the militant groups are fighting to join Pakistan, which rules a third of Kashmir, while others want a reunited and independent Kashmir.

Officials have repeatedly ruled out storming the shrine, and some say the government may have to back down and let the militants go free without conditions.

Official sources said one more person had died after paramilitary troops shot dead protesters in the small Kashmir town of Bijbehara, bringing the death toll to 38.

Mr. Rehman said an official enquiry into the incidents is underway. A government statement said the findings would be presented to the government within two weeks.

Police also reported several more deaths after clashes elsewhere in Kashmir Friday, bringing the total to 50.

Nearly 13,000 people have died in the Kashmir rebellion, which began in January 1990, police and hospital sources say.



People dig with their bare hands to free those caught and trapped in the Shankill Road bombing in Belfast, Northern Ireland (AFP photo)

IRA attack sinks N. Ireland peace moves

BELFAST (R) — The IRA torpedoed tentative Northern Ireland peace talks with a bungled bomb attack that killed 10 people, stiffening Prime Minister John Major's resolve not to speak to the guerrilla group until it renounces violence.

"People cannot bomb their way to a political objective, it cannot be done," Mr. Major said Sunday after the bomb tore into the Protestant heartland of Belfast and launched the war-weary province into another bloody round of "tit-for-tat" killings.

He dampened hopes of a peace breakthrough, kindled by contacts between Northern Ireland politicians and Irish nationalist leaders, asking: "What on earth do the IRA think this sort of atrocity is going to do? What confidence does that build?"

Protestant extremists, whose meeting place was the intended target of Saturday's blast, said the IRA, fighting to end British rule in the province, "would pay a heavy, heavy price for this atrocity" and within hours three men were shot and wounded in a wave of sectarian attacks.

Hundreds of extra troops and police were poured out to the tense streets of Northern Ireland to try to deter revenge attacks typical of the province's cycle of violence.

The Irish Republican Army

(IRA), facing its worst disaster since 11 people were killed in 1987 by a bomb at a war memorial ceremony in Enniskillen, admitted the bombing that killed 10 people and injured 59 "went tragically wrong."

In a statement issued after the bomb cut a swathe through shoppers and killed women and children, the IRA said: "Not all our volunteers are accounted for."

One of the IRA bombers was believed to have died in the blast and a second was seriously wounded and being kept under armed guard in hospital.

Shocked relative May Harrison said: "My husband travelled to hospital in the same ambulance as the man who planted the bomb."

Mr. Major, talking to BBC Television from the Commonwealth summit in Cyprus, said: "There is only one message I want to hear from the IRA, and that message is that they have given up violence for good. Yesterday they sent a different message."

Moderate Irish nationalist leader John Hume has been conducting peace talks with Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams, leader of the IRA's political wing, in an attempt to end 25 years of a conflict that has caused more than 3,000 deaths.

Mr. Hume, his voice bowed by despair, appealed for the talking to continue and said of the bombing: "It was an act of mass slaughter and murder. People are sick and tired of the violence. All the violence does is fill graves and deepen division."

His party colleague Joe Hendron, member of parliament for the ravaged Shankill Road, gave a blunter assessment: "The IRA have given two fingers (an insulting gesture) to the talks."

Northern Ireland's Political Affairs Minister Michael Ancram agreed, saying the bomb "makes a total mockery of any talk of peace on the part of the IRA."

The bomb was forcefully condemned by Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring who travels to Belfast Wednesday for talks with Britain's Northern Ireland Minister Patrick Mayhew.

Mr. Major is due to meet Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds at a European Community summit in Brussels Friday to try to find a way of renewing negotiations.

Britain hopes to set up a local power-sharing government between Protestant and Roman Catholic leaders in Northern Ireland after 20 years of direct rule from London. The talks collapsed last November and show little sign of resuming.

Canadians appear set to vote for return to the 'good old days'

OTTAWA (AFP) — Canada's political leaders are preparing for their last weekend campaign push before Monday's general elections which are now widely expected to be won by the opposition Liberal Party.

The biggest question appears to be over whether Jean Chretien and his Liberal Party will have an overall majority in the 295-seat House of Commons or whether Mr. Chretien will have to be satisfied with a minority government which should benefit from a fractured opposition.

To the past couple of weeks, all major opinion polls have given the Liberals around 40 per cent of the national vote, followed by Kim Campbell's governing Progressive Conservatives with just over 20 per cent.

Mr. Chretien's constant

attacks on the employment policies of the Tory government under Ms. Campbell and former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney appear to have worked.

With unemployment remaining obstinately above the 11 per cent mark, and with Ms. Campbell admitting that there was likely to be no significant improvement for the rest of the decade, Mr. Chretien's promise of a return to "the good old days" of government-sponsored job creation appears to have worked.

Ms. Campbell's warning that the "good old days" of the Liberal government of Pierre Trudeau, in which Mr. Chretien held several ministerial posts, were the days of hyperinflation in which the government laid the foundations for Canada's burgeoning budgetary deficits appear to have

backfired. These warnings appear to have helped the six-year-old populist Reform Party — which wants to slash government spending in a bid to balance the budget within three years — win support from the right-wing of the Progressive Conservative Party.

Reform, which looks set to win anywhere up to 70 seats in the Commons Monday, could become Canada's official opposition party.

And while it is taking votes away from the Tories in English-speaking Canada, especially in the prairies and British Columbia, French-speaking Canada is expected to give the Bloc Quebecois a majority of Quebec's 75 federal parliament seats — again at the expense of the Tories.

U.S., N. Korea to resume nuclear talks

SEOUL (R) — The United States and Communist North Korea are expected to resume stalled high-level talks over Pyongyang's alleged atomic weapons development plan in early December, news reports said Sunday.

State radio quoted a senior government official as saying Washington and Pyongyang had agreed the third round of talks would cover ways to normalise ties between North and South in a bid to help resolve

the nuclear dispute. The agreement indicated Washington had backed down on its original stance that the talks were only to discuss ways to settle the dispute with the North, the radio said.

The mass-circulation Chosun Ilbo newspaper quoted an unidentified senior government official as saying the talks would take place in early December.

Chosun said North Korea, under threat of U.N. sanctions

over its suspected nuclear weapons programme, recently responded positively to a U.S. call for inspections of its nuclear sites by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

It said the North had also responded to another U.S. demand, for progress in discussions with its arch-foe South Korea on the exchange of special envoys to tackle the bitter nuclear impasse.

EC set to relaunch itself after series of setbacks

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) will try this week to reset its pace on the road to monetary and political union amid a gnawing recession and mounting unemployment.

A series of meetings between EC ministers on matters ranging from where to site the embryo EC central bank to what joint foreign-policy goals the 12 nations can set culminated in a special summit of heads of government Friday.

It is billed as nothing less than a relaunch of the Community, coming three days before the Maastricht Treaty on European Union comes into force, but following nearly two years of setbacks to the bloc's integration plans.

"We must resume moving forward," European Commission President Jacques Delors, an architect of the treaty, said recently. If not, he warned, Europe risked being marginal-

ised. Formally, the summit's agenda calls for the EC leaders to discuss various aspects of the Maastricht Treaty, agreed in December 1991, ratified by the last of the 12, Germany, two weeks ago, and taking effect on Nov. 1.

These include implementation of a common foreign and security policy and the second stage of the bloc's move towards a single currency, involving the distribution of EC agencies ranging from the European Monetary Institute (EMI) to the deceptively important plant breeder's trademark office.

The backdrop against which the summit takes place all but ensures that the sound of champagne corks popping for Maastricht will be muted.

The years since the treaty was agreed in the Dutch town of Maastricht have not been kind to EC integrationists.

Plans for a speedy move to a single currency received a series of body blows from foreign-exchange markets, forcing finance ministers this summer to widen the supposedly converging fluctuation bands of the exchange rate mechanism.

In foreign policy, the 12 have failed to act effectively together in the region's most debilitating security issue, the war in former Yugoslavia.

But most damaging for advocates of a more integrated Europe, many EC citizens have given firm thumbs-down to Maastricht, with some finding it a threat to national sovereignty and others deeming it irrelevant to their everyday life.

The treaty was rejected on a first try in Denmark, then barely made it through a French referendum and Britain's parliament.

Add to this an economic downturn that it sending EC

wide unemployment towards 20 million, and the leaders at Friday's summit are expected to try to make the beginning of life under Maastricht more palatable to the average European.

Unlike previous summits, this one is expected to avoid issuing huge wordy conclusions, favouring instead some kind of easily understandable statement on the benefits of integration.

EC sources also expect the leaders to focus sharply on the Community's economic woes and to put off until later some of the more contentious items facing the bloc, notably agricultural trade and, possibly, the sifting of the ERM.

The leaders know what is at stake.

"If we do nothing," predicted Mr. Delors earlier this month, "this decline will end in disintegration (of the Community) in 15 years."

Rebel soldiers flee Burundi

BUJUMBURA (R) — Soldiers fled Burundi Sunday, fearing attacks in a popular backlash against last week's military coup, foreign diplomats said.

Diplomats in the capital Bujumbura said no foreigners were hurt in the coup Thursday in which Burundi's first democratically-elected President Melchior Ndadaye was killed.

Soldiers on the streets of Bujumbura looked nervous.

Diplomats said peasants in some areas, angered by the overthrow of Mr. Ndadaye, had felled trees to block roads and impede the soldiers.

They said there were unconfirmed reports that peasants from the majority Hutu tribe had massacred minority Tutsis — the country's former feudal rulers who dominate the army — at Kakuzi and Gitega, east of Bujumbura. One report said a Tutsi village was wiped out by angry Hutus.

Meanwhile leaders of faltering military coup in Burundi bargained for an amnesty Sunday but a minister from the ousted civilian government said the murder of the president had provoked fresh tribal violence.

State radio, in army hands and monitored in neighbouring Rwanda, confirmed that President Ndadaye had been killed during Thursday's coup after only three months in power.

The army chief of staff as well as the man the coup leaders installed in Mr. Ndadaye's place meanwhile sought to distance themselves from the takeover bid.

Mr. Ndadaye, a 40-year-old banker, became Burundi's first democratically elected president after he defeated military President Pierre Buyoya in June.

He was also the first member of the majority Hutu tribe to wrest power from the minority Tutsis, who traditionally dominated the country's politics and army.

Burundi's history since independence from Belgium in 1962 has been scarred by wholesale tribal slaughters, often carried out by the Tutsis.

Army Chief Lieutenant Colonel Jean Bikomagu said on Burundi Radio Saturday that the soldiers who toppled Mr. Ndadaye were ready to surrender power in return for an amnesty.

"The military men have accepted that the government of Frodebu (Mr. Ndadaye's party) should rule again, but it should examine the question of amnesty for those who participated in the coup," he said.

Col. Bikomagu, who had remained silent since Thursday's coup, denied any role in it. Francois Ngeze, a Hutu civilian installed as new head of state, said he had been forced to support the paratroopers who led the coup. "I was taken by force by soldiers to solve the question of security of our country," he said on state radio.

Mr. Ndadaye's communications minister, Marie Ngeahayo, told the British Broadcasting Corporation: "The military are realising they cannot go ahead with the coup and they say they want to negotiate."

"But we have refused to discuss with them because the danger is still there."

Mr. Ngeahayo, speaking by telephone from a foreign embassy where he had taken refuge, said the interior minister, the foreign minister's wife, the speaker of parliament and his deputy were also killed in the coup.

Georgian troops head for key Black Sea port

TBILISI (R) — Government troops captured two villages from rebels in western Georgia early Sunday and crossed a bridge on the road to the key Black Sea port of Poti, the Defence Ministry said.

A ministry spokesman told Reuters troops were also battling forces loyal to ex-President Zviad Gamsakhurdia on a second front near the rebel-held town of Senaki.

The villages taken were Supsa and Grigoliti, the ministry said, adding that the government forces, who back Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, were approaching Poti from the south.

It said the soldiers were a few kilometres from Poti, a port from which grain and other supplies are usually taken by train and road to the Georgian interior and on to

Azerbaijan and Armenia. The government says the rebels are blocking the supply route, and has asked Moscow to help secure it.

The ministry's account of the latest fighting could not be independently confirmed.

There was no news about Samtredia, a strategic town which the government says rebels shelled Friday and Saturday, injuring two civilians and destroying several houses.

Government forces launched an offensive last week after several towns were overrun by rebels last weekend.

The rebels are fighting to oust Mr. Shevardnadze and re-install Mr. Gamsakhurdia, who was overthrown in 1992 amid charges he was running a dictatorship in the tiny Transcaucasian republic.

Rocard officially takes over French Socialist Party

LE BOURGET, France (R) — Former Prime Minister Michel Rocard was formally voted in as head of the French Socialist Party which he has headed since the party lost power in an election disaster in March.

Mr. Rocard, sole candidate for the post of party first secretary, got 80 per cent of 587 votes cast by delegates at a party congress in this Paris suburb.

But the personal antagonisms which marked internal party politics for years were apparent as 112 delegates cast blank ballots while 51 others did not take part in the vote.

Most notable among those

who abstained were politicians like ex-Foreign Minister Roland Dumas who are personally loyal to President Francois Mitterrand, the long-time party chief before becoming French president in 1981.

Mr. Mitterrand, whose dislike of Mr. Rocard is proverbial in French politics, sent a message to the congress Friday telling them unity was the key to regaining power but pointedly out Mitterrand's name.

Mr. Rocard twice unsuccessfully tried to topple Mr. Mitterrand as party leader in 1981 and 1988 in bids to become the Socialist candidate for the presidency.

Bosnian Muslims launch assault on Croat town

SARAJEVO (R) — The Muslim-led Bosnian government army has launched an assault on the Croat enclave of Vares in central Bosnia, a U.N. officer said.

"The Vares pocket is under attack. There is serious fighting around the town but not yet on its outskirts," U.N. Protection Force spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Aikman told Reuters Sunday.

Col. Aikman said the attack on Vares, until now virtually untouched in the 19-month-old civil war, began Saturday after Bosnian troops seized the outlying settlement of Kopjari to link up with comrades trapped within the pocket.

"By taking Kopjari the Bosnian army opened up a route to relieve its people within the pocket. Having done that, the Bosnian army is pressing ahead with an assault along the northwest-to-southwest flank of the Croat forces," Col. Aikman said.

The first fighting in the Vares area began five days ago when the battle for the village of Ljesici forced thousands of Croats to take refuge among their former Serb enemies.

Vares straddles a vital road from Sarajevo to one of the biggest Muslim strongholds of Tuzla to the east.

Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio said Sunday the latest fighting flared after Croat troops Saturday annihilated a Muslim village, Stupni Do, on the edge of the Vares enclave.

"The village of Stupni Do with 250 inhabitants, no longer exists as of Oct. 23," the radio said.

It said separatist Croat forces (HVO) attacked the village with artillery and infantry and, after crushing the resistance of 40 local Bosnian army troops, "burned houses and killed civilians."

"The village of Stupni Do is

still burning. There will soon be an offensive to liberate this part of Bosnia," it said.

Croat and Muslims fought as allies against rebels Serbs who Bosnia's civil war started 18 months ago, but turned against each other over territory in central Bosnia early this year.

Since then, Muslim forces have wrested five key central Bosnian towns from their former allies, to create their heartland prior to an internationally-mediated agreement to split Bosnia into three ethnic mini-states.

Col. Aikman reported heavy Serb shelling along front lines in the Golutic Valley on the southeast fringes of the Muslim Bosnia pocket which tailed off Saturday after Serbs advanced about 500 metres.

Maverick Bihac Muslim leader Fikret Abdic, president of the self-proclaimed Autonomous Province of Western Bosnia (APWB) which has broken with the Bosnian government led by President Alija Izetbegovic, signed a peace agreement with rebel Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in Belgrade Friday.

Mr. Abdic also signed a peace pact with Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban Thursday, saying he has secured peace for his people.

It remained unclear whether the Serbs advanced against forces loyal to Mr. Abdic or Bosnian government troops.

The Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) said Serbs Sunday opened a border crossing with Mr. Abdic's Bihac enclave, saying Muslims needed no other documents to cross except for identity papers.

Col. Aikman said two UNPROFOR jeeps driven by Dutch military policemen were hijacked on Route Diamond, the major supply corridor into central Bosnia.

Sri Lankan boy kept in chains by mother

COLOMBO (R) — An 11-year-old mentally ill Sri Lankan boy, who was rescued two months ago from being chained at home by his mother for eight years, is back in chains, the state-owned Sunday Observer newspaper reported. It said in a front page story that Asantha Pushpakumara was released from the chains on Aug. 30 after his sister newspaper exposed his predicament. He was admitted to a children's home and later sent to hospital for treatment. The boy's mother Dayawathi was then asked to take the child home to Katukurumba, a village south of Colombo, and bring him back to hospital for periodic review, the paper said. But she failed to do so and is once again keeping Pushpakumara in chains, the paper added. Dayawathi claimed she kept her son chained to a pillar at home to keep him from getting into trouble after complaints from neighbours, the paper said. The boy is kept naked as he tore any clothes put on him, it added.

Teenager locked in self-storage unit; mother charged

ORANGEBURG, S.C. (AP) — The mother of a 17-year-old girl found locked in a rented storage unit with little more than a blanket and some peanut butter was arrested on charges of kidnapping and neglect. The girl spent weekdays in the dark, windowless shed for at least two months after her mother took her out of school because she is a slow learner, authorities said. Sheriff's deputies tipped by neighbours of the storage complex found the girl. The neighbours reported seeing two women go into the unit each day for several days and only one come out. The girl's mother, Kathy Russell, told investigators she didn't want her husband to know the teen wasn't in school so she put her in the rented unit weekdays mornings and retrieved her between 3 and 4 p.m. Orangeburg County Sheriff C.R. Smith said investigators were looking into why the girl was kept out of school and for how long. The mother was in jail in lieu of \$300,000 bond. Mrs. Russell's husband, Milton, told authorities he had been giving her tuition money each month because he thought his daughter was attending Orangeburg Preparatory School. The headmaster, Ann Glover, said the girl was not a student there. Milton Russell said during a bond hearing for his wife that he worked many hours of overtime and left her in charge of matters at home.

Report: Scientist clones human embryos

NEW YORK (AP) — In an experiment believed to be the first of its kind, a researcher in Washington has cloned human embryos into identical twins or triplets, according to a published report. Dr. Jerry Hall of George Washington University Medical Centre was trying to devise a method to create more embryos to implant when couples do not produce a sufficient number for in vitro fertilisation, according to Sunday's editions of the New York Times. Dr. Hall is in the in vitro fertilisation programme at the university where doctors help women have babies by mixing sperm and eggs in a laboratory and then implanting them in the women. Dr. Hall declined to be interviewed by the paper, which based its report on a summary of a scientific paper presented at an Oct. 13 meeting in Montreal of the American Fertility Society. In the summary, the Times said, Dr. Hall wrote that by splitting the embryos into twins or triplets or quadruplets, doctors could try to implant more embryos, making it more probable that a woman could become pregnant. A description of the findings is scheduled to appear next week in Science magazine, the Times said.

Philippines to host Miss Universe pageant

MANILA (R) — Manila has been selected to host the 1994 Miss Universe beauty pageant, Philippine President Fidel Ramos said Sunday. Mr. Ramos dismissed press criticisms that his cash-strapped government would spend millions of dollars for the contest, saying it would be mainly a private sector initiative. Manila also hosted the Miss Universe contest in 1974 when the country was ruled by late President Ferdinand Marcos.

APU in JTS

Blue Jays land the last punch in World Series

TORONTO (R) — The two best-hitting teams in Major League Baseball slugged it out in the 90th World Series, and the Toronto Blue Jays landed the last punch.

Joe Carter's three-run homer with one out in the bottom of the ninth lifted the Blue Jays to a thrilling 3-6 come-from-behind victory over the Philadelphia Phillies Saturday to snatch a 4-2 win in the best-of-seven game series.

It was Toronto's second championship in a row and the first ever won in Canada.

The Phillies had mounted a comeback of their own, scoring five runs in the seventh inning highlighted by Lenny Dykstra's three-run homer to turn a 5-1 deficit into a 6-5 lead.

The series saw records set or equalled in a slew of offensive categories including most hits (127) and most runs (81) in a six-game series. In fact, the 81 runs fell just one short of the highest-scoring seven-game series.

The two teams also set a record for most appearances by the beleaguered pitchers in a six-game series, 44, and

Toronto's wild 15-14 game four victory equaled the record for hits in a single game, 32, and was the longest series game ever at four hours and 14 minutes.

But the near-farical game four also typified both teams' resilience, as Toronto won it with a six-run eighth inning, and Philadelphia bounced back from the devastating loss to win the only pitchers' duel, of the series of Curt Schilling's five-hit, complete-game 2-0 shutout in game five.

Philadelphia needed complete games because closer Mitch Williams lived up to his "wild thing" nickname, picking up two losses, with one save. "I blew it" he said after each loss, adding "life's a bitch" after the final defeat.

Both teams got bere with their hats.

Philadelphia, a run-scoring machine during the regular season, took the National League Championship Series (NLCS) from a two-time N.L. champion Atlanta Braves team that boasted the best starters in baseball.

Similarly in the American

League Championship Series (ALCS), the Jays, with the top three batters in the league in John Olerud, series most valuable player Paul Molitor and Roberto Alomar, knocked off a Chicago White Sox team conceded to have superior pitching.

Purists may decry this as the shape of the future as ever-expanding baseball further dilutes the quality of the game's pitching.

General Manager Lee Thomas and Manager Jim Fregosi reaped accolades for forging Philadelphia's rowdy, bearded, tobacco-chewing "castoffs" into a close-knit, high-scoring unit able to come from worst to first in a year.

For Toronto, Pat Gillick was already planning to recast his high-priced team for next year, his last at the helm. Gillick, who changed 12 of the 25 players on last year's roster, hopes to trim the \$50 million payroll by as much as \$8 million.

That means late-season, acquisition Ricky Henderson, the best leadoff man in history, is probably gone, even though

he scored the tying run on Carter's homer.

Among the others who may go are Tony Fernandez, whose nine RBI were a series record for shortstops, and catcher Pat Borders, last year's series MVP.

But Molitor — who emerged from 15 years of semi-obscure stardom in Milwaukee to hit .332 with Toronto this season, then hit .500 in the series with two homers, two triples, two doubles and eight RBI — will be back for another year.

Molitor set a postseason record for runs scored — seven in the ALCS and 10 in the series — and scored the championship run on Carter's homer.

Carter himself, who since 1985 has more RBI, 952, and more home runs, 262, than any other Major Leaguer, will return.

So will a couple of dazzling 25-year-olds — Olerud, who batted .363 this season, and Alomar, who hit .326 and according to Fregosi is a sure Hall of Famer barring serious injury.

A little pitching would just be icing on the cake.

Iraq, S. Arabia draw 1-1 in Doha.

DOHA (AP) — Iraq and Saudi Arabia, whose last encounter in the deserts sands involved scuds and U.S. soldiers, battled for a passage to America Sunday. Bot the World Cup Asian qualification match ended in a 1-1 draw.

Thousands of Qatari police, some with dogs, kept a strict vigil, as French referee Joel Quiniou blew the final whistle.

Iraq scored in the first minute when Captain Ahmad Radhi, 29, flicked the ball into the net after getting a cross from Selim Hussain. It was almost a dream goal.

After the goal, many Iraqi fans quickly switched the photographs they were displaying from a praying Saddam Hussein to a smiling Saddam.

It was then turn of an estimated 25,000 Saudis, who had arrived in convoys of expensive cars, vans and luxury buses to back their team, to celebrate. Saeed Owairan's powerful shot

from inside the penalty area found the mark in the 35th minute. The score was levelled 1-1.

As the battle cry started rising from spectators, the play on the field became rough. Referee, Joel Quiniou, brought out the game's first yellow card for Saudi Arabia's Fahed Mahalel for dangerous play.

At half-time, the teams were tied 1-1.

To keep the fans engaged and to bring a little relaxation during the 15-minute break, the giant screen at the stadium showed one of the most popular Arabic singer Khalid Al Sahar of Iraq, singing a hit Arabic number. And then came the lucky ticket number which won a Mitsubishi: Lancor.

But on the field tension and rough play dominated. In quick succession, after the break, Saudi Arabia's Owairan

and Iraq's Saad Numan got yellow cards.

In the 56 minute Saudi Arabia wasted a penalty when Khalid Al Mowalid shot flew over the goalpost. The penalty was awarded when Iraq's Jabbar Hanoon brought down Owairan.

Earlier organisers wove a security web around Khalifa Stadium to stop repetition of Friday's incident when thousands of Saudi fans invaded the ground, broke chairs and gesticulated at South Korean supporters after a last minute equaliser against the South Koreans.

The Saudi Football Federation was warned Saturday that its fans would be barred from the stadium if they invaded the field or intimidated fans of a rival team.

More than 3,000 Qatari riot police, wearing camouflage

uniform, conducted crowd-control drill inside the 40,000-seat stadium before the match. During the game the police, who are normally kept out of public view, were posted near the Saudi stand.

Iraq's soccer authorities had expressed fears that their players would be subject to "assaults and abuse by the Saudi fans," the state-run Iraqi News Agency reported.

Iraq, with a fair chance to qualify for the 24-nation World Cup finals in the U.S. after its 2-1 victory over traditional foe Iran Friday and Sunday's 1-1, already had set the tone for Saturday's encounter.

"Our implacable enemy, the Saudis must be crushed before a television audience of millions around the world," the Al Baath Arriyadhi sports newspaper in Baghdad screamed before the six-nation tournament began.

Senna wins Japanese Grand Prix

SUZUKA, Japan (R) — Ayrton Senna won the Japanese Grand Prix with a superb exhibition of masterful driving Sunday — but tarnished his performance by punching British driver Eddie Irvine in a fight after the race.

Incensed by the Briton's "unprofessional" driving in difficult, wet conditions on his Grand Prix debut, Senna charged into the office of Irvine's Jordan team an hour after the race ended.

After a brief slugging match and a torrent of insults, Senna threw a punch with his left fist, knocking Irvine to the floor, before he was restrained and pulled away by McLaren team officials.

Jordan commercial manager Ian Phillips who saw the incident said: "I have had to report Senna to the race stewards for a serious physical assault. It is a sad day when you see a great sportsman and a three-times world champion reduced to such cheap physical tactics."

Senna, almost beyond control with rage, was escorted away after the incident without making any comment.

Irvine, who finished sixth, said he was amazed at Senna's behaviour. "He is totally out of control — completely and utterly," he said. "He hit me across the head and I fell down."

The row erupted because Senna, while leading the race, became involved in Irvine's scrap for fourth position with Briton Damon Hill.

Senna said their battle had been unprofessional and he described Irvine as "stupid" when he spoke at the post-race media conference. He said Irvine should have paid more attention and respect to the leaders.

After the race, however, Irvine forcefully defended his driving. He said Senna could do what he wanted to and used colourful language to make his feelings plain.

The Northern Ireland driver's behaviour was relayed to Senna who stormed down the back of the paddock and into the Jordan office where their confrontation took place.

Senna, 33, said later: "I had to go off the track three times. They were battling and they could have had an accident and taken me off. I tried to explain, but he was not listening."

Senna's victory keeps alive his hopes of finishing second overall in this year's Drivers' Championship.

He took the lead in his McLaren at the first corner after out-starting world champion and poleman Alain Prost of France.

Although he lost his position after an early pit-stop he regained the ascendancy in heavy rain to sweep to the 40th victory of his career.

Making the most of the changing conditions and judging his strategy and his driving to perfection, Senna came home comfortably, clear of Prost, in a Williams, with his McLaren team mate Mika Hakkinen of Finland in third place.

It was Hakkinen's first podium finish in only his second race outing for the McLaren team.

The day will be remembered not only for the excitement of a race filled with incidents and the fight between Senna and Irvine, but also because the old hostilities between Senna and Prost also surfaced again.

Senna ignored Prost on the victory rostrum and when Prost said afterwards he hoped

that it would be possible for them to have some good words to say to each other in the last race of Prost's career in Australia, Senna simply replied: "Maybe."

Hill, in a Williams, finished fourth to stay narrowly ahead of Senna in second place in the championship while the two Jordan drivers, Brazilian Rubens Barrichello and Irvine, were fifth and sixth to score the team's first points of the season.

The result was a sensational reward for Irvine for a committed performance in his first Grand Prix.

But as well as his altercation with Senna, Irvine was also involved in several incidents during the race and was reported to the stewards by the footwork team after colliding with Briton Derek Warwick at the chicane near the end. The

protest was rejected. Only eight of the 24 starters were running at the finish as the tricky conditions forced a series of cars into retirement and created several spectacular accidents.

The victory was Senna's fourth of the season and came in his penultimate race for the McLaren team before moving to join rivals Williams in 1994.

Senna triumphed in a winning time of one hour, 40 minutes and 27.912 seconds at an average speed of 185.612 kph. Finishing 11.435 seconds clear of Prost, who led for a long spell early in the race after Senna had made his initial pit stop.

Prost now heads the championship which he has already won, with 93 points. Hill is second with 65 points and Senna third on 63.

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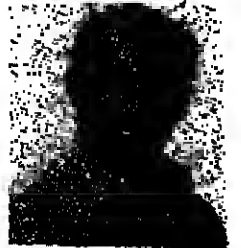
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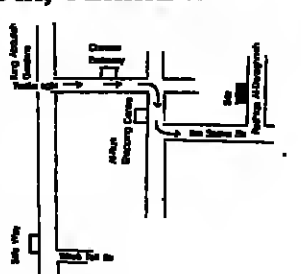


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♥ 652
♦ KQ10968
♣ 54

WEST
♠ 107642
♥ K93
♦ 1084
♣ QJ93

EAST
♠ AS74
♥ QJ93
♦ 108
♣ AS

SOUTH
♠ AS
♥ AK7
♦ JS
♣ AK782

The bidding:
South West North East
1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass
2NT Pass 3NT Pass
Pass Pass

It is easy to fall into the trap of becoming a slavish follower of rules, but that's a sure way of losing at bridge. If, instead, you follow Hecule Poirot's advice and "use those little grey cells," the right play is often obvious. Can you spot the errors on this hand?

The bidding was routine. South showed a balanced 19-20 points and we don't blame North for looking no further than three no trump as the most likely contract even though, on

this lie of the cards, 11 tricks are there, perhaps even 12, at a diamond contract.

West led a low spade, covered by the queen and king and taken by the ace. East held up the ace of diamonds on the first lead of the suit, then won the continuation. The spade return was taken in dummy and declarer cashed out 11 tricks. Well?

There's just one mistake, and it's a fatal. It occurred, as so often happens, at the very first trick.

Let's suppose East forgets all about the maxim of covering an honor with an honor, or third hand high, and allows dummy to win the first spade trick. Now, declarer can force out the ace of diamonds, but as long as East holds up for one round, there's no entry to the four winning diamonds on the board! Indeed, there's an opportunity for a pretty denouement to the hand. When in with the ace of diamonds East can exit with the king of spades! That pins the table's queen and sets up partner's suit without costing the defenders a tempo, and declarer goes down two tricks!

We're indebted to Frank Thomas, editor of ABTA Quarterly Magazine, for this hand.

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Madiha Kamel / Mahmoud Hamidah

in

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Hurd: Syria wants peace with Israel

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said after talks with President Hafez Al Assad that Syria was not hardening its line on Middle East and Damascus wanted a peace pact with Israel.

Asked in an interview with British television whether the Syrians were hardening their line on the peace talks, Mr. Hurd said:

"No I do not think so. They are nonplussed by the Israel-PLO agreement which caught them by surprise, but I have the strong impression here that they want to see a peace agreement between Syria and Israel."

"I am impressed by the seriousness here and I am sure that Israel is serious. It is a matter of finding the right time for them to come together again and have the right flexibility on both sides once they come together to reach an agreement."

Mr. Hurd had more than three hours talks with Mr. Assad Saturday on the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and how to break a deadlock on the Syrian-Israeli track.

He said prolonged delay in the resumption of peace talks would have a bad impact on the whole peace process.

A transcript of his interview was released by the British embassy on Sunday.

Syria strongly criticised the PLO-Israel interim agreement signed in Washington last month which granted limited autonomy to Palestinians in the occupied territories. It has threatened to boycott the next round of talks with Israel in Washington.

Talks between Syria and Israel made no tangible progress in 11 rounds held in Washington after the opening of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid in 1991.

Syria wants full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, while Israel says it is ready only for a partial withdrawal in return for full normalisation of relations including the establishment of diplomatic ties.

In a separate interview with the BBC World Service, of which a transcript was also released, Mr. Hurd said he feared that delay in the resumption of talks between Syria and Israel would endanger the peace process. He urged both sides to show flexibility.

"My belief is that the bilateral talks should resume as soon as may be, obviously there is no point in resuming until there is some possibility of progress."

"There are clear dangers if the deals continues. I am not saying it has to start again next week, but if month followed month and there was not renewal of this process... then I think the situation and the apathy on both sides would begin to deteriorate to go wrong."

Mr. Hurd said Damascus-based Palestinian groups

opposed to the PLO-Israel agreement could express their views about the accord if they did so peacefully.

A 10-member Palestinian alliance formed after the launch of the Arab-Israeli peace talks in 1991 strongly condemned the PLO-Israel agreement and vowed to foil it.

"People are allowed to express their views. Naturally I support the Israel-PLO agreement," Mr. Hurd said. "Others in the Arab World, others in Israel have different views. They will certainly find ways of expressing them."

"What is important that these arguments should be peaceful, they should be arguments of words and not of bombs and bullets," Mr. Hurd said.

'Syria rejected secret channel'

Syria recently rejected Israeli offers to open a secret negotiating channel and to call a summit between foreign ministers, an Israeli daily reported Sunday.

The respected daily Haaretz, quoting high-ranking political sources, said the Israeli proposals were made through the United States.

The paper said Israel also made clear to the Syrians that it was willing to convene a summit between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and President Assad under U.S. auspices.

The paper did not say if the proposals were made through U.S. envoy Dennis Ross, who met with Mr. Assad and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa last Thursday after meeting in occupied Jerusalem.

Mr. Ross was in the Middle East in an attempt to break the stalemate in Israeli-Syrian peace talks, and declined to give journalists details about his eight hours of talks in Damascus.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman Gad Ben-Ari, asked about the Haaretz report, said that "naturally Dennis Ross met with the Israeli prime minister... and then met with the Syrian leadership and discussed with them what he heard here in Jerusalem."

"Beyond that I cannot talk about a specific message other than to say that Israel has an interest in seeing the negotiations with Syria continue and we would do whatever is possible to see them become more fruitful," Mr. Ben-Ari added.

Earlier this month, the daily Yedioth Ahronoth reported that Mr. Assad had said he was ready to meet Mr. Rabin in Washington by the end of the year if Syria received Israeli clarifications on its willingness to withdraw from the Golan Heights.

President Bill Clinton, asked about a possible Assad-Rabin summit by Israel Radio in Washington said only "we'll have to see," adding that the talks would have to reconvene first.

Haiti army backs compromise

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) — Haiti's military expressed support Sunday for a proposal by a group of parliamentarians to break the deadlock in a U.N. plan to restore democracy in Haiti.

The legislators, who are opposed to deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, call for parliament to vote simultaneously on an amnesty for army chief Raoul Cedras and others who took part in the 1991 coup and on a measure to separate the police and the army.

Mr. Aristide has insisted that the police be separated from the army and put under civilian control before his return, scheduled for Oct. 30. Both forces have been accused of human rights abuses and political repression.

The military said in a statement that it backed "all steps leading towards a favourable framework for a peaceful transition."

"The military institution backs the initiative of all interested sectors in national life... which has the clear support of the international community," it said.

In Washington, Vice-President Al Gore said Sunday that reports of a deal to resolve the crisis in Haiti were "a very encouraging sign of progress."

Under the U.N.-sponsored Governors Island agreement signed in July, Mr. Aristide issued an amnesty for crimes committed during the coup. But General Cedras failed to step down accordingly on Oct. 15, insisting that the amnesty be first approved by parliament.

Arafat visit to France — more business than politics

From Wafa Amr in Paris

PALESTINE Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has ended his first visit to France after the signing of the Israel-PLO accord with promises of French political and financial support for Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Mr. Arafat, who described his visit as "very good and very fruitful," said he discussed in detail with French President Francois Mitterrand and other senior French officials, "practical issues such as the restructuring and building of the future Palestinian state."

PLO officials accompanying Mr. Arafat said the visit "was very fruitful economically, particularly since France promised to help the PLO get financial assistance for existing Palestinian institutions inside the occupied territories threatened with collapse as a result of the PLO's financial crisis."

A former senior French official said Mr. Arafat's visit to France was considered as a symbolic return for France to play a role in the peace process after its marginalisation by the U.S. However, although politically marginalised, France can be economically active in the restructuring of the Palestinian economy, he said.

The nature of the visit was "economic rather than political... it was a business visit," one French source said.

Mr. Arafat spent much of his private time meeting with French businessmen at Hotel de Crillon.

Sources also said Mr. Arafat met secretly with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, who was in Paris for treatment.

Mr. Arafat denied having met with Mr. Aziz, but the sources said they met when Mr. Arafat suddenly disappeared from the hotel Thursday night.

PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo said France promised to push for European participation in the running cost of the future Palestinian entity in the occupied territories. He said the Palestinians' initial estimate for running costs are approximately \$120 million. France has also expressed willingness to receive Palestinians for police training.

In addition to the running

cost and police, the PLO was concerned with saving Palestinian institutions threatened with closure as a result of the PLO's financial crisis.

Faisal Hussein, head of the Palestinian team accompanying Mr. Arafat, said on the official level, "France promised to help save these institutions which need almost \$20 million monthly."

Such institutions include universities, hospitals, schools, and social services institutions. Mr. Hussein said the PLO was pushing for the speedy implementation of development projects inside the occupied territories, and the need for Europe to start financing and supporting the Palestinian economy before the five-year interim period begins.

PLO officials said that Europe was ready to finance development projects only after the actual implementation of these projects begins, but the PLO was seeking early European assistance.

"France pledged to provide financial and technical assistance to the Palestinian National Authority and to Palestine" in administrative, in addition to training of police and technical assistance and cooperation with the future Palestinian television and radio that are being set up, as well as playing a leading role in water treatment and the building of a port in Gaza Strip," one PLO official said.

Former French Prime Minister Michel Rocard told the Jordan Times he hopes "France would contribute to the building of the Palestinian governing authority, and someday the Palestinian state, in terms of technical and financial assistance." Mr. Rocard was among many former French officials who visited Mr. Arafat in his hotel.

A PLO official maintained that Europe and the U.S. were competing over the Middle East region, and both were seeking to economically benefit from the implementation of the PLO-Israel accord.

There are serious concerns in Palestinian circles that Israel would slow down the process of implementation of the accord. Having signed the declaration of principles with the PLO, Israel would seek to reach a peace agreement with

Syria, and lift the Arab trade boycott and focus less on achieving progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track, the official maintained.

PLO officials said Mr. Arafat was seeking assurances that Israel would not attempt to delay the implementation of the PLO-Israel accord.

At the same time, the PLO was concerned with the slow progress on the Syrian-Israeli and Syrian-Lebanese tracks of negotiations.

A PLO official said it is expected that Syria would very soon sign a peace agreement with Israel. Before his departure from Paris to Tunis, Mr. Arafat told reporters that Syria would soon reach a peace accord with Israel.

"Very soon, there will be significant progress on the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations especially after the message that (U.S. peace coordinator) Dennis Ross carried from (Israeli Prime Minister) Yitzhak Rabin to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, which will also reflect positively on the Lebanese-Israeli track," Mr. Arafat said.

According to PLO officials, Mr. Rabin had previously sent a message to Mr. Assad urging him to ban Hizbollah from functioning from southern Lebanon, an act which would entail immediate Israeli withdrawal from the South.

"Immediately after the signing of the PLO-Israel accord, Rabin was deliberately delaying any progress on the Syrian-Israeli track in order to gain time to prepare his public opinion for another shock," a senior PLO official said. "It seems that the U.S., which has pushed for progress on the Syrian track, has succeeded in getting both sides to accept a compromise."

Former Lebanese President Amin Gemayel told the Jordan Times that the Lebanese people hoped that the PLO-Israel accord would lead to significant progress on the Lebanese-Israeli track of negotiations.

Mr. Gemayel, who also met with Mr. Arafat in Paris, said: "The Lebanese people, whose dignity was stamped and whose will was confiscated and whose independence was not fulfilled, should benefit from the chance of achieving peace in the region."

Jordan, Tunisia agree to increase cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Tunisia have reached tentative agreements to expand their maritime and air transport links and increase trade between them, Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saket said Sunday.

Dr. Saket told Petra upon his return after a several-day visit to Tunis, where he met with government officials and co-chaired a meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Tunisian committee, that he signed the minutes of deliberations with Tunisian ministers and officials which call for a reexamination of the 1981 bilateral trade agreement and new measures to interact with new economic situations in the two countries.

Dr. Saket said an agreement reached on preparing lists of commodities for exchange would be reviewed by a joint committee to convene next month in Amman.

These lists contain the category and types of goods from Jordan and Tunisia that would be exempted from customs

duty upon entering either country, he said.

The Tunisian and Jordanian trade centres in Amman and Tunis will be allowed to sell goods worth \$10 million each year.

The minutes provided for the two countries to give preference in the exchange of Tunisian olive oil for Jordanian potash and medicines and for launching joint ventures.

The two sides initiated an agreement on maritime transport and invited the governments of Jordan and Tunisia to call for a meeting by the civil aviation authorities of the two countries to meet and discuss closer cooperation between their national airlines.

The minutes, according to Dr. Saket, covered cooperation in the fields of social development, sports and youth. Also set up was a coordination and follow committee to convene every six months in Amman and Tunis to implement the agreements, he said.

Al Ra'i columnist Salah Abdul Samad passes away

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian journalist and editorial writer for Al Ra'i newspaper Salah Abdul Samad passed away in Amman Saturday after a protracted battle with illness. He was 62.

Born in Cairo in 1931, Mr. Abdul Samad came to Jordan before the 1967 war and worked for a number of newspapers in the West Bank.

Later he moved to Amman where he first worked for Al Dustour daily, and then for Al Ra'i daily as a daily columnist and editorial writer.

Mr. Abdul Samad is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

Mr. Abdul Samad's column, "The Local Horizon," which was brief but precise, enjoyed a wide readership. He used to tackle issues that pertain to people's daily



Salah Abdul Samad (1931-93)

lives. Mr. Abdul Samad gained the respect of fellow journalists as a credible and moderate writer with gentle and friendly manners.

'Meat legislation' may be latest obstacle to peace

TEL AVIV (AP) — War and peace shared the spotlight Sunday with a matter no less potentially explosive to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's rocky coalition: The import of non-kosher meat.

The latest flap between Mr. Rabin's secular and religious partners was triggered Friday, when Israel's high court voided an informal decades-old ban on such imports.

Implementing the ruling would likely force the fervently religious Shas party, whose support is seen as critical to future peace moves, out of the coalition.

Passing legislation explicitly forbidding the imports would enable the ban to continue and satisfy Shas — but would deep-

ly offend the dovish Meretz bloc, whose 12 members are fervently opposed to any new religious legislation.

Mr. Rabin also faces troubles from within his own Labour Party, with some members threatening to vote against the proposed annual budget next Wednesday. Rejection of the budget, by Israeli law, would bring down the government.

Avi Yehzekel, one of four roving legislators, said he would only vote for the budget if the government proved it was acting to reduce the 10 per cent unemployment and bail out Israel Aircraft Industries, which is planning to lay off about 1,000 workers.

Changes produce dull campaigning

(Continued from page 1)

Farhan. The government limitations on holding public meetings has been cited by the IAF and other two leftist parties as evidence that the government is interfering in the elections.

The IAF, the Jordanian People Democratic Party, the Jordanian People's Democracy Party have accused the government of electoral irregularities, saying that its action

have given them reason to doubt that the elections will be held freely and fairly.

The government rejects these charges saying its moves are sanctioned by the law.

"Public rallies and the neutrality of government are essential for a healthy election campaigns," said Dr. Farhan. Both are missing, he said.

"No body expected such a campaign," said Dr. Hamarneh.

To the readers of Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times
Home delivery service now covers the following districts:

Jabal Amman - from Second Circle to Biader Wadi Seer, Abdoun, Um Uthaina, Sweifieh, Shmeisani, Al Hussein Housing Estate, Rabieh Housing Estate, Tlaa Al Ali, Khaldi, Um Al Summaq, Wasfi Tell Street, Mecca Street, Al Rashid District, area opposite University of Jordan, University of Jordan Housing Estate and Jubeiha.

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For information and subscription call tel.: 667171 extension 247

COLUMN

Freedom Statue returns to Capitol dome perch

WASHINGTON (AP) — The bronze statue Freedom was hoisted back atop the Capitol dome by helicopter as President Bill Clinton and thousands of spectators watched from the plaza below. The bright orange heavy lift helicopter bore the statue with ease above the trees rimming the Capitol at the literal high point of ceremonies commemorating the 200th anniversary of the meeting place of Congress. The event to return the 130-year-old sculpture was a month late and a cornerstone short, but the message for the nation, said Capitol architect George White, is "freedom reigns again." "Liberty is again in her place," said historian David McCullough... as he opened the ceremony. And Mr. Clinton, who followed a parade of congressional speakers, noted that Abraham Lincoln said during the civil war the work on the Capitol and its crowning statue would continue because, "if people see the Capitol going on, it is a symbol that we intend the union to go on."

Joseph Kennedy marries aide

BOSTON (AP) — As wedding guests offered a rousing chorus of "when Irish eyes are smiling," U.S. Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II walked down the aisle Saturday with his bride, Beth Kelly. Among the family friends and politicians who turned out for the civil ceremony at Kennedy's Boston home was exiled Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Mr. Kennedy, who supports returning Mr. Aristide to power, greeted him with a hug, shook his hand and posed with him for photographers.

Rape victim attacked second time by rescuer

NORRISTOWN, Pennsylvania (AP) — A woman who was stranded in the streets after being raped was sexually assaulted a second time by a man who offered to help her. Police said the man found the 26-year-old woman on a street in the middle of the night in Norristown, Pennsylvania, and told her he would call authorities for her from his home but then decided to rape her again.

Woman offers her kidney in exchange for a job

TOULOUSE, France (AP) — An unemployed woman, saying she was ashamed of living off welfare checks, tried to take out a newspaper ad offering her kidney for a job, the paper reported Saturday. The Depeche Du Midi, or Southern Dispatch, said it turned down the ad because French law prohibits the sale of human body parts, but the paper interviewed the woman instead. "Woman, 42 years old, very nice appearance, excellent health but in need, offers a kidney to someone able to provide a lasting and legal job," read the ad sent to the regional paper. "I'm ashamed of this assistance money I've been getting for the past three months. I just want work," the woman, identified only as "Madame J," said in an interview with the paper. "I absolutely must keep my anonymity so that those close to me don't find out in what extreme conditions I live in," said the former saleswoman among the 11.7 per cent of France's work force that is unemployed. Divorced and raising a young daughter, she receives 2,300 francs (\$400) a month in unemployment payments. The paper said she lost her son in a car accident.

Policeman bomber arrested after 13 years on run

OXNARD, California (AP) — A policeman who pleaded guilty in the bombing of an abandoned sewage plant while on duty has been arrested after 13 years on the lam, police said. Joseph Harper, 45, has been at large since 1980, when he failed to appear for his sentencing while out on bail. A former policeman in New York State, Mr. Harper pleaded guilty in 1979 to criminal mischief in explosions at a utility plant, railway tracks and an abandoned sewage treatment plant while on duty, causing some \$200,000 in damage.

Transvestites, politics burst onto Jordan news stands

By Rana Sabbagh

Reuters

AMMAN — Newspapers in Jordan have taken on a new vitality, raising sensitive social and political issues. Shihan, a lively independent political weekly, recently shocked readers in the socially conservative Kingdom by carrying a series of articles on transvestites in Jordan.

Officials denounce the newspaper as cheap and sensational — even while many read it regularly. But the tabloid has become a success story, offering a wide range of political news, combative editorials, official gossip and social and personal columns.

"We are successful because we present news in a satirical fashion and this is more appealing to people than the serious preaching-like approach which is still common," said Nidal Mansour, one of the tabloid's editors. Like many of those providing the vitality behind Jordan's main newspapers, Mr. Mansour returned from Kuwait during the Gulf crisis and under emerging democracy, helped inject new life into the Kingdom's staid media.

Named after a southern Jordan mountain peak, Shihan claims it sells 100,000 copies a week — a high figure in Jordan where the population is a little more than four million.

"We care about hearing the government view but we criticise it forcefully and



With the enactment of the Political Parties Law late last year and a new Press and Publication Law in mid-1993, the newspaper industry is mushrooming in Jordan (file photo)

aggressively," said Mr. Mansour. News stands are now crowded with nine weekly newspapers run by pro-Iraqi Baathist, communist, leftist

versed restrictions imposed on party newspapers in 1957 after leftist attempts to stage a coup.

The growth of new dailies has been limited by laws requiring them to have about \$70,000 in capital before being licensed.

Traditional dailies say independent weeklies and party newspapers have neither affected their circulation nor their advertising share.

But the established dailies which generally toe the official line have a powerful edge — they are backed by the government which has ownership stakes in each of them. The government wholly owns the national television and radio network and the official press agency.

Critics of the upstart papers say they have failed to prove their credibility and have been unable so far to balance party ideology with objective reporting. But the dailies, used to years of censorship and self-censorship, clearly trail behind the new weeklies in raising sensitive political and social issues.

"We have an important role to play and our absence leaves a vacuum," said Jamil Al Nimri, head of the country's leading leftist Arabic weekly Al Ahal. It is run by the Jordan Democratic People's Party, a former offshoot of a hardline, Palestine Liberation Organisation faction.

Mr. Nimri's paper, which has a weekly circulation of

about 5,000, broke a widely-suppressed story of the arrests of a group of army cadets accused of plotting to kill King Hussein.

Mr. Nimri is awaiting trial for contempt of court along with one of his reporters, Ramadan Al Rawashdeh, for their coverage of the defence case in the open State Security Court.

Censorship ebbs and flows but still exists although it has eased dramatically since King Hussein began democratic reforms after anti-government riots in 1989.

Many media people complain that Jordan has taken a step backwards under a vaguely-worded 10-month-old press law governing who is a journalist and the limits of press freedom.

The Ministry of Information has floated the idea of a general ethics code for the press, which many journalists see as institutionalised self-censorship.

The government says it needs to maintain controls to safeguard national interests. "The problem is that most Arab states believe that any remark against them is blessed by the government and therefore they take it very seriously," said one official. "Journalists themselves, also have to respect the law because democracy does not mean anarchy."

Illustrating the fear many officials have of being quoted by name in the still-developing society, the official asked to remain anonymous.